PPC shows proof of poll cheating in N. Samar

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2001 ★★ 70 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 160 ₱15

Ani files bid for early Estrada arraignment

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND VOLT CONTRERAS

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday filed a memorandum before the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division asking it to immediately arraign ex-President Joseph Estrada, his son Jinggoy and lawyer Edward Serapio for plunder.

ANI/ A4

Gov's ma, 12 more die in 2 chopper crashes

BY PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Tragedy followed tragedy yesterday as a helicopter crashed, killing all six passengers, after which a rescue helicopter sent to the scene also crashed, reportedly killing seven Air Force rescuers.

The first six victims, including the mother of

GOV'S/ A16

PnM off to big start in Comelec canvass

Poll results from 3 provinces kick off official count

BY ROCKY NAZARENO, GERALD G. LACUARTA AND TJ BURGONIO

OPPOSITION candidates were off to a strong start as the national board of canvassers finally got down to its job yesterday and tabulated election results from three provinces, as well as absentee votes of policemen, soldiers and Commission on Elections personnel.

In these very early results, independent candidate Noli de Castro and six Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) bets nailed down the first seven of 13 available Senate slots.

In the morning, as 488 absentee votes of soldiers, policemen and government personnel were tabulated, it appeared that reelectionist senators Gregorio Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile still commanded a loyal following in the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

Honasan and Enrile, two of the alleged leaders of an aborted power grab earlier this month, led the senatorial race at the opening of the national canvassing at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Results from the tally of the 488 absentee votes showed Honasan leading with 338 votes, followed by Enrile with 321. De Castro was third with 303.

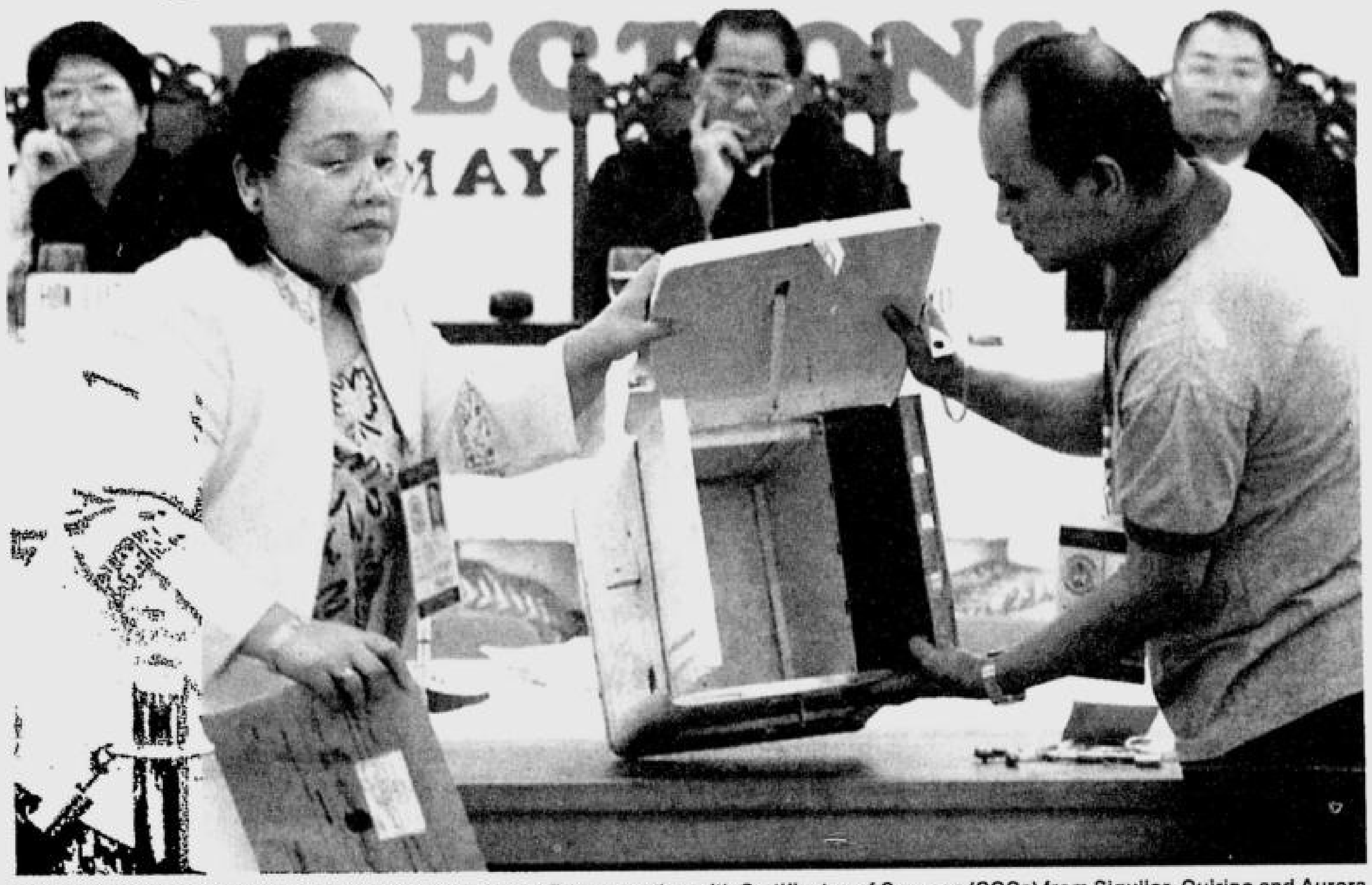
Their lead did not hold. In results tabulated as of 4 p.m. yesterday, De Castro, also No. 1 in the unofficial counts, was leading with 93,528 votes. *(For other figures, see Comelec chart below.)*

That figure was based on the canvass of votes cast in Siquijor, Quirino and Aurora, together with the absentee votes.

Following De Castro were PnM senatorial candidates Panfilo Lacson, Edgardo Angara, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Honasan, Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

In eighth place, former Speaker Manuel Villar was ranked highest among the administration People Power Coalition's bets.

PNM/ A15



FINALLY, the Comelec begins canvassing the votes on Friday starting with Certificates of Canvass (COCs) from Siquijor, Quirino and Aurora provinces. For security reasons, the COCs from Quirino were wrapped in Manila paper; hence the empty ballot box. Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo is flanked by Commissioners Luzviminda Tangcangco and Ralph Lantion

DENNIS SABANGAN

PPC still leading 8-4-1 at Namfrel

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

WITH nearly half of the nation's precincts covered, the 8-4-1 lead of the People Power Coalition in the senatorial race remained last night.

Ralph Recto moved two notches higher to No. 12, then slipped back to No. 13. For the past four days of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections national tally, Recto's rival for the 13th spot has been Juan Ponce Enrile.

But in the 4:10 p.m. tally yesterday, Recto came back strong to assume the 12th slot from partymate Manuel Villar, who moved to the 8th spot. Later, Villar climbed to No. 7.

As of the 9:13 p.m. tally, Recto was displaced by Gregorio Honasan who moved from 13th to 10th place.

The tally represented 46.74 percent of the results of canvass in 201,007 precincts nationwide.

The tally also showed independent candidate Noli de Castro's lead over second placer Juan Flavier widening every day.

Namfrel volunteers at the national tabulation center at La Salle Greenhills said they expected De Castro's lead to further increase by midnight as incoming returns showed him leading in almost all of the 16 regions.

Flavier and Sergio Osmeña maintained their hold on the 2nd

PPC/ A16

Ople vows to make Comelec execs cry

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

SEN. BLAS Ople yesterday promised to make officials of the Commission on Elections "cry" during a Senate investigation of the widely denounced poll body, as militant and moderate groups demanded the mass resignation of the squabbling commissioners.

The opposition senator described the Comelec as the "most fractious commission in history and one of the most undisciplined constitutional agencies in government."

Civil society groups called on the commissioners to resign as soon as they finish canvassing votes, following what Akbayan called the agency's "abysmal" performance.

Ople pointed out that much of the blame for the poll body's failure to prepare for an honest, orderly and graft-free elections rested on Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

But a spokesperson of the Free Legal Assistant Group-Southern Mindanao said

OPLE/ A16

NAMFREL

as of 9:13 p.m., May 18

No. of precincts: 93,947 (46.74%)

1	DE CASTRO	Ind.	7,566,478
2	FLAVIER	PPC	5,706,755
3	OSMEÑA	PPC	5,441,703
4	ARROYO	PPC	5,391,946
5	DRILON	PPC	5,312,138
6	MAGSAYSAY	PPC	5,308,434
7	VILLAR	PPC	5,219,650
8	PANGILINAN	PPC	5,201,696
9	ANGARA	PnM	5,134,093
10	LACSON	PnM	4,993,441
11	EJERCITO-ESTRADA	PnM	4,921,587
12	HONASAN	PnM	4,862,336
13	RECTO	PPC	4,838,622
14	ENRILE	PnM	4,533,891
15	DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO	PnM	4,513,719
16	PUNO	PnM	4,217,031
17	TAÑADA	PPC	3,970,888
18	MERCADO	PnM	3,613,669
19	PAGDANGANAN	PPC	3,437,047
20	MONSOD	PPC	3,311,276
21	HERRERA	PPC	3,260,409
22	MADRIGAL	PnM	2,471,744
23	RASUL	PnM	2,457,990
24	VINZONS-CHATO	PPC	2,342,857
25	YASAY	Ind.	2,245,003
26	TAMANO	PnM	1,635,893
27	CANOY	PnM	1,619,606
28	ADAZA	Ind.	364,530
29	MORATO	Ind.	330,478
30	NAVARRO	Ind.	322,509

COMELEC

Unaudited as of 4 p.m.

Rank	
1	93,528
13	53,880
10	55,372
12	54,156
14	53,486
9	56,469
11	54,258
8	58,590
3	76,502
2	76,857
4	72,553
15	47,624
5	71,131
6	69,705
7	61,293
16	45,432
18	33,407
17	41,500
19	31,957
22	23,428
21	28,855
23	22,569
20	28,941
26	16,964
27	13,448
25	18,763
24	21,879
30	3,478
28	5,683
29	4,740

PPC shows proof of Samar poll fraud

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition yesterday presented evidence purporting to show that the opposition committed massive fraud in Northern Samar during the May 14 polls, and said PPC leaders were continuing to gather proof that elections in 12 other provinces were rigged as well.

Alleged samples of "substituted" election returns were presented first to reporters by PPC-Lakas losing candidates in Northern Samar and in a news conference in Manila by PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco.

To show how badly PPC candidates were faring in the 250,000-vote province, Limcaoco said: "In several precincts, Joker Arroyo, who is idolized in Samar for his role in (Joseph Estrada's) impeachment trial, got a zero, while (opposition candidate) Ombra Tamano, who is a virtual unknown, got 20 to 30 votes.

"And Sen. Juan Flavier who is extremely popular (there), got eight votes."

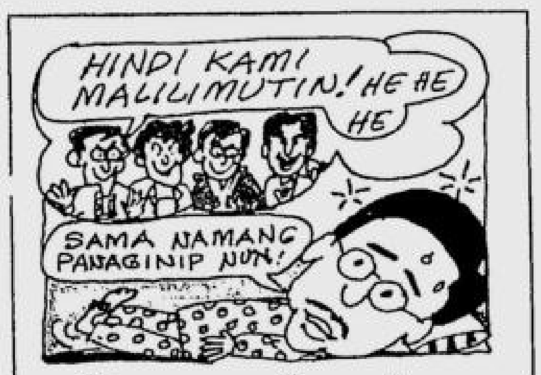
The PPC is expected to file any time a petition before the Commission on Elections seeking the suspension of the canvassing of votes at the municipal and provincial level as well as the proclamation of winners in Northern Samar.

Its leaders said election returns there were fabricated and switched following an "unexplained" and "staggered" province-wide power outage on May 14.

Among those present at the news conference were civil society leaders like "running priest" Robert Reyes and Tessie Baltazar, who both condemned the supposed election fraud in Northern Samar.

The opposition, however, stepped up its own accusation of poll fraud, and claimed that the administration's supposed "*bawas-bawas* (vote shaving)" scheme was particularly aimed at four Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates.

PPC SHOWS/ A16



HINDI KAMI MALILIMUTIN! HE HE HE
SAMA NAMANG PANAGINIP NUN!

Strong showing by PnM is bad news for Perez

BY CATHY YAMSUAN

WILL the four Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) senatorial candidates who were ordered arrested earlier this month by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez exact sweet vengeance on him if they win?

The prospect of retaliation by the

STRONG/ A16

'When they fly, we fly; when they land...'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, JOWEL F. CANUDAY, FROILAN GALLARDO AND CARLITO PABLO

"WHEN they fly, we fly; when they land, we land," retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia yesterday said of the helicopter chase between the operatives of the People Power Coalition and Puwersa ng Masa across two Lanao provinces.

Abadia, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, described the chopper chase like playing "*patintero*."

He admitted that the PPC had sent him to Mindanao to monitor the movements of PnM "political operators" like former Estrada official Jaime Policarpio, whom the PPC accused of engaging in electoral fraud to favor PnM senatorial candidates.

In separate radio interviews, Abadia insisted that he saw Policarpio moving from place to place by helicopter.

"We were tailing them to see whether we can have *balato* (tip). You know they are fond of *balato*," Abadia said, referring to two senators, who admitted during the impeachment trial of receiving a tip from the mahjong winnings of then President Joseph Estrada.

Abadia and Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southeastern Mindanao, were aboard a yellow B015 helicopter when they chased Policarpio, who was in a red and blue Ecuriel helicopter reportedly owned by JV Ejercito, a son of former President Joseph Estrada.

Policarpio, a former presidential legislative liaison office chief, denied spearheading a group to bribe poll officials into manipulating election results in Mindanao.

WHEN/ A15

HMM... MUKHANG FAMILIAR ANG MGA PANGALAN NG MGA ITO, AH!?

Second FRONT PAGE

‘Spice girl’ spikes Nikki

Hipper, younger 12th Congress in the offing

By Rocky Nazareno

A HIPPER, younger 12th Congress will convene on June 30 with the arrival on the scene of fresh faces and the return of the youthful representatives who left their mark on the last Congress.

Most of the young ones owe their entry to the House to their pedigrees, or the political dynasties their forebears built.

Maite Defensor, 30, is one of the new faces in Congress. The master in finance graduate of Harvard University won the third district seat in Quezon City vacated by her older brother, Mike, who was appointed housing secretary in the Macapagal administration.

Maite beat a formidable opponent to get to Congress—former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, who was a representative before she became a senator.

"Now we have a Spice Girl with us," said Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, one of last Congress' Spice Boys, so dubbed because of their youthful vitality and good looks.

Other Spice Boys returning are Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya.

Rep. Hernani Braganza, like Mike Defensor, will not be joining his fellow Spice Boys, after he accepted the agrarian reform portfolio in the Macapagal administration.

"Our opponents really poured money to try and unseat us," said Zubiri, who defeated Puwersa ng Masa bet Iso Montalban.

Sandoval won over lawyer Rissa Oreta, daughter of opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, while Andaya coasted to an easy victory over Roberto Genova. Barbers, however, had a tough time beating Surigao del Norte Gov. Francisco Matugas.

The opposition's "Bright Boys," who were closely identified with the deposed Estrada administration, will also be returning but not all of them will be on the same side of the aisle this time around.

Staunch Estrada allies Gilbert Teodoro (Tarlac), Jayjay Romualdo (Camiguin), Juan Pablo Bondoc (Pampanga) and Francis Joseph Escudero (Sorsogon) have each won another term.

This time, however, they will not be joined by Edmund Reyes of Marinduque and third-termer Neptali Gonzalez Jr. of Mandaluyong who left the Estrada camp at the height of the corruption scandal that engulfed former President Joseph Estrada last year.

DEFENSOR: Big upset.

Other fresh young faces will be that of Ric Golez, son of former Rep. Roilo Golez, who will be taking over the Parañaque seat vacated by his father who is now national security adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rozano Rufino Biazon, son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, scored an upset over incumbent Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio Bunye.

Sherwin Gatchalian, 27, son of Estrada crony and plastics king William Gatchalian, will represent the second district of Valenzuela after he bested former Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Magtanggol Gunigundo, father and namesake of the first district congressman.

The young Gatchalian was chief executive officer of Air Philippines Corp. as well as a top official of the Wellex Group, which are both owned or controlled by his father. He graduated from Boston University.

Television news reporter Gilbert Remulla will represent the first district of Cavite after he defeated former Cavite Gov. Epimaco Velasco.

The 30-year old masters in international studies graduate from Columbia University spent five years covering various beats for ABS-CBN News before taking the political road. He is a scion of the politically powerful Remulla clan of Cavite.

Whether Spice Boys or Girl, Bright Boys, or simply a fresh new face, the consensus of observers is that the youngsters must deliver. Going by their performance in the 11th Congress, most of them lived up to expectations, and more.

Now if only their elders would follow their example, the observers opined.

COSETENG: Is it the end of the road?

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DOJ: Jimenez win won’t save him

By C. Yamsuan

BEING the new congressman from Manila's sixth district will not save controversial businessman Mark Jimenez from being extradited to the United States.

Jimenez, erstwhile close friend and adviser to deposed President Joseph Estrada, is wanted in the US on election fraud, tax evasion and other charges.

Only the possibility of turning state witness against Estrada will keep Jimenez from American hands, according to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Perez told a news conference yesterday he had warned Jimenez when he filed his certificate of candidacy that winning would not save him from extradition, unless the government found his testimony against Estrada useful.

He said government prosecutors were still waiting for Jimenez to "offer something better," by way of information that would help them pin Estrada on graft, corruption and plunder charges.

Jimenez had earlier submitted an affidavit detailing the amounts of money he allegedly gave Estrada at the latter's behest.

The money trail reportedly led to the "Jose Velarde" account at Equitable-PCI Bank, which allegedly belonged to Estrada.

Perez said once government prosecutors finish evaluating the information furnished by Jimenez, the Department of Justice will decide whether to surrender him to US authorities.

"If we could be assured that the cases against Mr. Estrada could proceed even without Mr. Jimenez, then as I've said before, we will have to comply with our extradition treaty with the US," Perez said.

"We cannot stop his extradition. The Supreme Court has decided on it. As I explained to Mr. Jimenez, we are going to use our office to delay the extradition (only) if his testimony will be useful to the prosecution," he said.

The Supreme Court last Feb. 6 removed all obstacles to the extradition request of the US government.

Perez also denied accusations the government was only out to harass Jimenez.

"We made the announcement (about his extradition) even before the elections, but we were afraid that it might be construed as political harassment. So we waited until the elections were over before we began evaluating the information he gave us," Perez said.

"With the elections over, no one can now cry harassment. We are just following the law," he said.

At the latest Comelec count, Jimenez was leading his opponent, Pablo Eric Ocampo V, by a substantial margin.

Ocampo and his sister, Rep. Sandy Ocampo, have charged, however, that Jimenez had bought his way to victory and that he was not even a legal resident of Manila, being a resident of Forbes Park, Makati.

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NFA: We have ample rice stocks despite shipment delay

THE NATIONAL Food Authority said yesterday the country had ample rice stocks despite market talk of shipment delays of over 200,000 tons it contracted to buy from Thailand and Vietnam.

"There's no worry about a shortfall. We still have ample supply. We don't see any problem," NFA deputy administrator Gregorio Tan told Reuters by phone.

"The volumes affected were not substantial. It's not the entire contract that is affected," he added.

Tan did not say how much rice from Thailand and Vietnam were affected.

Other NFA officials said Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade had requested an extension on shipment for 50,500 tons of rice, part of the 75,000 tons it had committed to ship in April.

Thailand won an NFA tender in March to supply a total of 150,000 tons of rice, of which 75,000 tons were for shipment by April 30 and the rest for shipment by May 31.

NFA officials said Thailand had only shipped 24,500 tons for the Philippines last month.

Thailand cited a delay by the NFA in opening the required letter of credit for the failure to meet the deadline in shipping half of the rice consignment, NFA officials said.

NFA officials said Vietnam's Southern Food Corp (Vinafood 2) had also sought NFA approval to extend the shipment period of a portion of its total 450,000-ton supply contract to the Philippines.

The Vietnamese firm had committed to ship the entire volume to the Philippines between April and July.

On Wednesday, a trader in Ho Chi Minh City said he had heard that Vinafood 2 had sought to delay shipment of 160,000 tons of rice.

NFA officials said Vinafood 2 also cited delay by the NFA in the signing of the supply contract for its failure to meet shipment schedule.

The rice contracted by the Philippines from Thailand and Vietnam were part of the 650,000 tons it bought as buffer stocks this year from various sources.

Of the 650,000 tons that NFA contracted to buy, some 225,925 had so far arrived in the Philippines.

This included the 24,500 tons delivered by Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade. Glencore International AG had delivered 48,775 tons, of which 6,500 tons came from Thailand and the rest from Vietnam.

Vinafood 2 had so far delivered 152,650 tons of its total contract to both the NFA and the Philippine International Trading Corp.

NFA officials said that besides the imported rice that had so far arrived in the country, the state trading firm also had about 500,000 tons of unmilled rice in its warehouses.

The Philippines, one of Asia's largest rice importers, has been buying the staple since 1983 to fill up shortfalls in local output.

The country currently consumes an average of 24,400 tons of rice a day, the NFA said. *Reuters*

Polls no gauge on Erap guilt, or innocence

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE RESULTS of the recent elections should not be used as a gauge of the guilt or innocence of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

This was the assertion yesterday of two militant groups that scored Estrada for saying the election results were a repudiation of People Power II which ousted him.

Early returns showed Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa ticket making an unexpectedly strong showing in the senatorial race against the administration's People Power Coalition.

In a statement, Pamalakaya scored the deposed president for refusing to accept "the verdict of history against his administration."

Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said, "It all exists in the minds of Estrada and his cohorts. Who are they to challenge the verdict of history against a tyrant and criminal regime?"

Sambajon accused the Estrada camp of hatching another "gang project" in a bid to reverse People Power II and reinstate the toppled president after the Puwersa ng Masa shall have mustered enough numbers in both houses of Congress.

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno said the victory of some opposition candidates should not be used to judge whether Estrada should have been arrested or not.

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said, "Estrada is guilty and he should be punished no matter how the elections turn out. If the candidates of Puwersa ng Masa win, it would be a minor setback in the struggle for justice."

Malunes said the victory of some opposition candidates should make the government realize it has a long way to go in helping the people, especially those who were "duped and blinded" by the previous administration's pro-poor posturing.

Five Puwersa ng Masa candidates were in the winning list of 13 senatorial bets in the latest unofficial count of the National Movement for Free Elections.

They are Estrada's wife, Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Edgardo Angara, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson and Noli de Castro.

Pamalakaya dared the winning administration candidates "to rise above the occasion and defeat the sinister plot of the Estrada gang to rewrite history and grab power."

Erap roots for Miriam, JPE: Opposition needs good lawyers

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER President Joseph Estrada is hoping reelectionist opposition senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile make it to the next Congress.

This is because, according to Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, the ousted President has averred that "the opposition needs good lawyers like them in the Senate."

Saguisag said Estrada feels the two would be good fiscalizers in the Senate. He said Estrada thought Santiago and Enrile were ''brilliant'' lawyers.

"*Kailangan ng* Senate *ng mga abugado* (The Senate needs lawyers)," Saguisag quoted the former President.

He said Estrada was also concerned about reports of alleged attempts by the administration, through former national security adviser Lisandro Abadia and presidential adviser on Mindanao affairs Jesus Dureza, to manipulate the election results in Mindanao to favor the administration's People Power Coalition.

Saguisag said this was being done through *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving).

He said this was how former President Fidel Ramos won the elections in 1992, and how Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was cheated of victory in 1995.

Saguisag said Mindanao could now be considered an opposition bailiwick after initial election returns showed that the Puwersa ng Masa candidates making a strong showing there.

He said Estrada felt the votes for the opposition candidates were a reflection of the people's lingering faith in him.

Estrada was also happy that former first lady, Dr. Loi Ejercito, is "doing better than expected" in the senatorial race, Saguisag said.

The opposition, he said, has to guard against cheating by the administration, especially with the close senatorial race.

The lawyer repeated Estrada's satisfaction over the fate of his political detractors—including some actors and former Cabinet members—who sided with President Macapagal-Arroyo and who were now losing in the polls.

"He feels this is vindication for him," Saguisag said.

He said that even if President Macapagal does not agree that the results of the elections reflect the public's disenchantment with her and her administration, she would not be able to erase that perception.

"She can't prevent people from thinking this way," he said. "There are lessons to be learned here."

The latest Namfrel count showed Enrile at the 13th and last senatorial slot with 3.218 million votes, while Santiago was at number 15 with 3.193 million votes.

The opposition senators who were in the top 13 as of the May 17 count were Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, and Dr. Loi Estrada. Only Angara is a lawyer among the four.

Saguisag, however, did not say what Estrada thought about that, especially since Angara was Estrada's last, albeit short-lived, executive secretary before he was toppled from power.

Double jeopardy, cries Ping lawyer

By Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan

PANFILO Lacson's lawyer is crying double jeopardy after the Department of Justice yesterday held a preliminary investigation on his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of six Chinese nationals and the eventual murder of two of them in 1999.

Lawyer Sigfrid Fortun said Lacson already faces the same cases before the Office of the Ombudsman and asked that the case be resolved in that forum

Relatives of the victims filed the complaint against Lacson and his alleged accomplices before the Ombudsman.

The DOJ investigation, meanwhile, relied heavily on statements given by witness Mary Ong, a.k.a. Rosebud, to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ong accused Lacson, then the head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, of participation in a group that kidnapped five Chinese nationals in front of Damar Village in 1999.

She alleged that the group freed four of the five persons in exchange for P10 million and decided to keep the fifth until their relatives come up with more ransom money.

The fifth victim was eventually murdered along with another person whom the group forcibly took from another venue when their relatives failed to produce the money, Ong told investigators.

Fortun said the DOJ investigation is tantamount to double jeopardy since Lacson cannot be tried twice for the same offense.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez clarified that the DOJ has not yet filed formal charges against Lacson, hence no double jeopardy has been committed by prosecutors.

"He (Fortun) cannot claim double jeopardy since the case has not yet been filed in court. Besides, we cannot control complainants who want to file cases against Lacson," Perez said.

Perez stressed that the DOJ's action against Lacson is based on Ong's complaint while the case pending before the Ombudsman stemmed from another filed by the victims' relatives

Perez said it is highly possible that government prosecutors will just consolidate the cases if the DOJ finds cause to charge Lacson.

Catholic schools score government's unfriendly stance

THE CATHOLIC Educators Association of the Philippines yesterday criticized the government for its alleged antagonistic stance against private schools, which it said, are "being killed" by laws barring increases in school fees.

CEAP president Fr. Roderick Salazar Jr. complained during a meeting on higher education in Manila that the government continues to distrust the private schools.

He said legislation barring the increase of tuition in private institutions was a clear sign of such distrust and would eventually bring the downfall of the private education.

"My fear is that (the government) will look at the Manila area, the big schools," Salazar said. "There are many small and middle-sized schools whose needs are not being met. The objections are very often against big schools, so they make legislation. But they will kill the small schools."

He urged the new administration to grant private schools full fiscal autonomy so they could operate more efficiently and improve the quality of education.

"Private schools are expected to deliver quality education, but tuition fees are regulated. Where will get the (additional) money?" said Salazar. "If government would not subsidize private education, then just let us be, set us free."

"If there are abuses, then we will curtail them. But generally, trust the school administrators to deliver," the Cebu-based priest added.

Salazar said legislators, especially the new ones, should look deeply into the state of education in the country and be sensitive to the needs of the private schools. *Gladys Tolete and Lady Ann Briguera*

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Sick Erap jogging? Sandigan asks why?

By Volt Contreras

NEWS of Joseph Estrada "jogging around the hospital" has prompted the Sandiganbayan to wonder whether he is now overstaying at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC).

The anti-graft court's 3rd Division yesterday asked VMMC officials to update it on the "present state of health" of the ex-president and his son and co-accused, Jinggoy.

The division chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy also asked the VMMC to disclose the medical tests and procedures that the Estradas had undergone or were still to complete.

It particularly wanted to know "how long (the tests) are expected to be completed."

The government hospital was ordered to report within 24 hours from receipt of the resolution, which Badoy released in a press briefing at 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

Also in the resolution, the 3rd division asked the Philippine National Police to report on how and where the Estradas voted on May 14.

It reminded the PNP that when it allowed the Estradas to vote at the VMMC, the permission carried a condition that they would be returned immediately to their holding quarters in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, as soon as they finished voting.

It asked the PNP to include in its report why the return order "cannot yet be complied with."

The PNP was also given 24 hours to reply.

The court noted that the Estradas "have been reported in the papers in the past few days as (being) in good health," and that "some of their lawyers made similar statements."

It pointed out that it was Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag who told the media that "we even see him (the ex-president) jogging around the hospital."

The court underscored the word "jogging" in its resolution.

The Estradas were airlifted to the VMMC from Fort Santo Domingo on May 12.

The VMMC later disclosed that the Estradas were suffering minor ailments caused by the weather, and that they would stay at the hospital until they had completed their executive physical checkups.

Ani files bid for early Erap arraignment

(From page A1)

In his 31-page memorandum, Desierto said the early arraignment of Estrada *et al.* was mandatory under Republic Act 8493 (or the Speedy Trial Act) and the 2000 Rules on Criminal Procedures.

The court had set the arraignment on June 27, but the prosecution headed by Desierto said this should take place on Monday or not later than the end of the month.

As if in retaliation, Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag also filed a memorandum yesterday asking the court to cite Desierto for contempt or at least have him "censured for grave prosecutorial misconduct."

Saguisag again assailed Desierto for initially filing eight criminal cases against Estrada only to withdraw five of these after his client went through a "humiliating bail process."

His memo was filed with the Sandigan's 4th division, to which one of the five withdrawn graft cases had been originally raffled.

The division had approved the withdrawal, but on Thursday the defense team asked it to reinstate the case "to lay the basis for a Supreme Court challenge" leading to a censure of Desierto.

"The Ombudsman must accept the consequences of his 'joke' and not toy with the accused," Saguisag said yesterday.

Desierto filed his own memo to counter the claim of Estrada's lawyers that the prosecution had filed weak cases against the disgraced ex-President.

"If they think we are *palpak* (bunglers), why are they making moves to delay the proceedings, particularly in the plunder case?" said Desierto, who pointed out that the defense team's motion to remand the case to the Office of the Ombudsman was a tacit admission that the case was backed by strong evidence.

He added: "The law is clear that high crimes involving high officials and large sums of money, as in the plunder charge against Estrada, should be given utmost priority."

Desierto also asked the court to act on his motion for the conduct of a joint bail hearing for Estrada *et al.* immediately after the arraignment.

DESIERTO

ESTRADA

Desierto said that according to RA 8493 and the Supreme Court's rules on criminal procedures, detention prisoners like the Estradas and Serapio should be arraigned within 10 days from April 6, the date of the raffle of the cases, and that according to RA 8493, the arraignment should be held within 30 days from April 25, the day the Estradas were arrested.

Co-conspirators

Desierto said the Estradas and Serapio—the only ones arrested so far out of the nine persons charged with plunder—should be regarded as "co-conspirators" to whom a common-body of evidence should apply.

A joint bail hearing is in order for the court to save on time and resources, he said, adding:

"The accused preference for separate bail hearings is nothing more than an insidious ploy to discover through the backdoor who the essential witnesses of the prosecution are, their circumstances and regular activities, as a way of determining what buttons to push to suppress their testimonies."

In earlier statements, the Ombudsman warned the court that some witnesses, if made to testify against the accused, might receive death threats along the way and "leave the court" without completing their task.

He further argued that the three accused were once again coordinating their actions, "as was their move when they were plundering the state."

For example, they "have purposely not applied for bail at the same time," he said, noting that so far, only Serapio and Jinggoy had done so.

"Thus, the accused are attempting a sneak-peek at the evidence of the prosecution through the application for bail of accused Serapio (presumably the first to be heard) without, however, being bound by the evidence presented," Desierto said.

He also refuted the defense team's contention that Serapio, for example, was only mentioned in the charge sheet in connection with just one of the four components of the plunder case.

Serapio is accused of receiving P200 million in *jueteng* bribe money in behalf of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

His lawyers had stressed that he was not at all mentioned in relation to the other scandals involving Estrada's alleged "Jose Velarde" account, commissions earned from Belle Corp. share sales, and kickback from tobacco excise taxes.

It was on this premise that Serapio's lawyers wanted his bail hearing to start ahead of the other accused.

But to bolster his conspiracy theory, Desierto compared Serapio to the "driver of the getaway vehicle" that was used in a well-planned murder plot.

Live video feed

Estrada's lawyers are determining whether he can appear before the Sandigan via a live video feed at his arraignment for perjury on May 31, like what former US President Bill Clinton did when testifying at his own impeachment trial.

"It will be less trouble for the police. We're exploring the possibility, just to avoid the security concern," said lawyer Raymond Fortun.

According to Fortun, a camera can be set up wherever Estrada will be at the appointed time—at the presidential suite of the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City or at his Polk Street residence in San Juan if the anti-graft court grants his petition for house arrest. Asked if this would not set a precedent, Fortun said: "I don't think (other) people can be similarly situated. There should be certain things done in this case which, under normal circumstances, would not be done."

Fortun said it would be such a "security nightmare" if Estrada would personally appear at the Sandigan for his arraignment.

"*Mabubulabog ang* Sandiganbayan (The court will be disturbed). And we don't want that," he said.

Fortun said he had raised the matter with "two other defense counsels."

If everyone agrees to it, the defense team will file a motion with the court next week, he said.

The perjury case is based on the Ombudsman's charge that Estrada did not declare his true assets and liabilities in 1999.

The Sandigan's 4th division agreed to the motion of the state prosecutors to defer the arraignment of the case from May 17 to May 31 for security reasons. *With a report from Donna S. Cueto*

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Military: Abu has regrouped

MUSLIM extremists scattered by an Army assault last month regrouped as soldiers were called away to guard midterm election voting this week, officials said yesterday.

After splintering off to flee an Army advance, the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas used the election period to better entrench in the mountains and jungles of Jolo Island, said Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, chief of the Southern Command.

Camiling said the Abu Sayyaf, which claims it is fighting to carve an independent Islamic state out of Mindanao, has recruited new members in the past week, adding to its estimated force of 1,200 members.

As much as 80 percent of the armed forces, including the Jolo units, have been on duty since the beginning of the week to protect midterm elections for municipal, provincial and congressional officials.

Voting was Monday but many soldiers are still guarding polling stations amid vote counting that is expected to extend to the end of the month.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered "all-out war" against the Abu Sayyaf six weeks ago when they threatened to behead Jeffrey Schilling, a US hostage they were holding.

The Army rescued the Oakland, California native on April 12 in a raid on a guerrilla hideout but continued their assault on the guerrillas.

The Abu Sayyaf, the smallest of the three major insurgency groups in the Philippines, shot to international notoriety last year after seizing dozens of hostages, many of them foreigners, in daring raids. It released all but two—Schilling and Filipino dive resort worker Roland Ulla—for reported multimillion-dollar ransoms.

Ulla is still held hostage on the island, Camiling said. *AP*

ROYAL VISITOR. Britain's Prince Andrew talks with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Navy Chief Vice Admiral Victorino Hingco under the gun of the patrol craft BRP Artemio Ricarte Friday at the Navy Headquarters in Manila. The Duke of York is here on a three-day visit. AP

AFP vows vengeance over NPA poll killings

BY CARLITO PABLO

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday vowed retribution for victims of atrocities committed by the communist-led New People's Army in connection with the May 14 elections.

"We are not going to take this sitting down," Reyes declared in a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Reyes, a former chief of the armed forces, said the violent activities perpetrated by the rebels were "very very deplorable" considering that the government had resumed talks with the underground National Democratic Front.

Reyes said: "We will see to it that those responsible will be made to account for their crimes."

The NPA was reportedly responsible for 23 of the 58 deaths recorded since the start of the election season on Jan. 2.

The rebels were also tagged in the wounding of 11 of the total 138 persons injured, and in 27 of 152 election-related violent incidents.

Reyes said that while the atrocities will not affect the government's effort to find a peaceful resolution to the communist insurgency, "this will not stop the armed forces from running after NPA rebels."

Eduardo Ermita, the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, had instructed government chief peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III to take up the issue of NPA atrocities during the elections with his counterparts in the NDF panel.

Ermita, however, said no formal complaint would be filed as no ceasefire had been agreed between the two sides.

Mayon spits out flaming rocks

LEGAZPI CITY—Flaming boulders tumbled down the slopes of restive Mayon volcano during the night but scientists said yesterday they still saw no clear sign an eruption was imminent.

The avalanche of red-hot rocks, "some as big as cars," reached as far down as three kilometers from the crater but there were no casualties, volcanology institute Chief Raymundo Punongbayan said.

The institute said in a bulletin it was maintaining alert level three around the volcano, meaning "an eruption is possible within weeks."

Alert four means an eruption is possible within hours or days.

"There is no trend that the situation is worsening because we have not recorded continuous tremors," Punongbayan said in a radio interview.

The 2,460-meter high volcano, located in Albay province, 330 km southeast of Manila, has been restive since January, periodically spouting magma or molten rocks which had turned into a "lava dome" at the volcano's mouth.

The dome has reached a height of 50 meters, with a diameter of 70 meters.

Parts of the dome broke during the night and cascaded down the slopes.

The government has declared a six-km radius from around the crater a no man's land.

Mayon, one of the country's 22 active volcanoes, has a history of violent eruptions. The deadliest occurred in 1814 when it buried a town under mud and rocks, killing 1,200 people. *Reuters*

Bring home 500 Pinoys from Brunei, bishops ask gov't

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday asked the government to help bring home most of the 500 striking Filipino workers in Brunei who want to leave the tiny oil-rich kingdom.

The Filipinos—who are employed at Seri Pertamas, a garment manufacturing company in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei's capital—struck on Wednesday after their employer failed to give them promised salary increases.

The Filipinos also complained that many of them were made to work 15 hours a day without additional compensation.

The CBCP said their sources in Brunei told them that the Filipinos' co-workers from India and Bangladesh had received their salary increases.

The Indians and Bangladeshis were also reportedly better treated than the Filipinos.

The CBCP said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration should help the workers come home.

It also called on the government to investigate the placement agency that brought the Filipinos to Brunei—Wandy Overseas Placement Inc. based in Manila.

The CBCP said the agency should be investigated for allegedly exacting exorbitant placement fees that some workers have yet to fully pay.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 19, 2001
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading:	*Acts 16:1-10*
Gospel:	*Jn 15:18-21*

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world *hates* you, remember that the world *hated* me before you. This would not be so if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world; because of this the world *hates* you.

Remember what I told you: the servant is not greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. Have they kept my teaching? Will they then keep yours? All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

Commentary:

Discipleship implies the readiness to undergo the lot of the Master. If we have grown in intimacy with the Lord, we will not be surprised to find ourselves on the same boat of misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, and marginalization. The command to love one another, when practiced especially with the church-of-the-poor and the integrity-of-creation perspectives, often becomes a threat to those living with unjust privileges at the expense of the rest of humanity and creation. Know well whom you follow and be consequent with that knowing.

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Guingona confident of poll victory

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Philippine Vice President Teofisto Guingona said yesterday he was confident the government would win a majority in a tight election for the Senate, and vowed it would press ahead with prosecuting ousted former President Joseph Estrada for plunder.

Speaking after meeting Malaysia's foreign minister during a daylong visit to Kuala Lumpur, Guingona said his confidence was based on exit polls which showed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's allies were ahead in the Senate race and which had proven to be accurate in the past.

He said at least two rival senators have also indicated they would give their full support to Macapagal.

Filipinos voted Monday to fill 17,600 posts, including 13 of the 24 Senate seats, the entire House of Representatives and municipal and provincial positions in elections held four months after Estrada was toppled from the presidency.

Vote counting entered its fifth day yesterday with candidates allied to Macapagal maintaining a slim lead in the key Senate race. Conclusive results from what is seen as a proxy war between Estrada and Macapagal are not expected until at least next week.

On Friday, Guingona said a Senate majority would allow the government to press ahead with Estrada's prosecution on charges of amassing P3 billion during his 31 months in office.

Estrada fled the presidential palace on Jan. 20 amid massive street protests. He was later arrested and is being held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

"We are in the process of reconciliation with justice and the wheels of justice must go on," Guingona told reporters after meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar. "We owe it to the people to mete out justice."

Guingona also said the government would wait for the results of the elections before holding talks with Muslim separatists fighting for an independent state in Mindanao.

He said three countries including Malaysia had offered to host the talks scheduled for next month. He did not name the other two countries, but Indonesia and Libya have been mooted. *AP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Amendments to pleadings—Amendments to pleadings are liberally allowed in furtherance of justice, in order that every case may so far as possible be determined on its real facts, and in order to speed the trial of cases or prevent the circuitry of action and unnecessary expense. The trial court, therefore, should have allowed the amendment proposed by petitioner for in so doing, it would have allowed the actual merits of the case to be speedily determined, without regard to technicaalities, and in the most expeditious and inexpensive manner. [References· 1197 Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 10, Sections 1 and 2] [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Rudolf Lietz Holdings, Inc. v. Registry of Deeds of Parañaque City, G.R. No. 133240, November 15, 2000]

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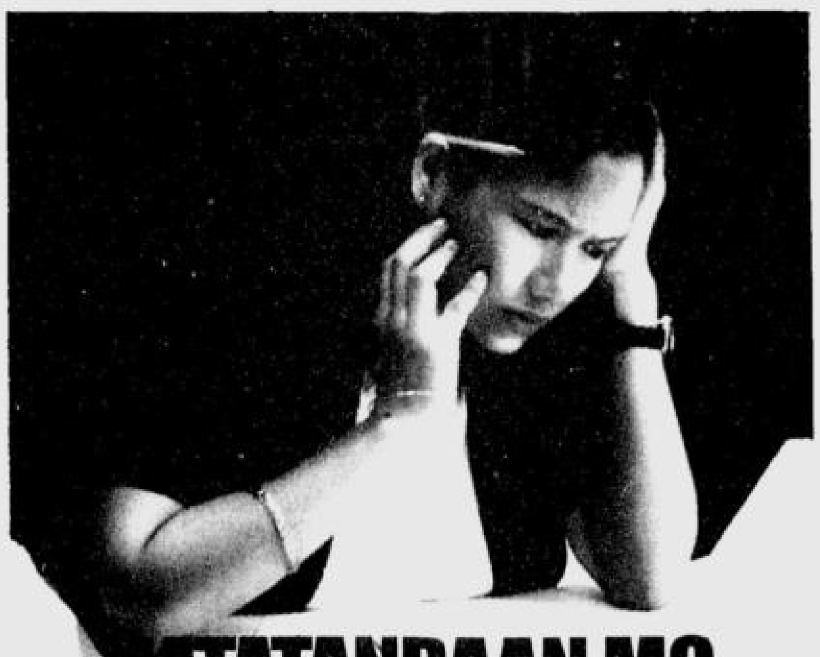

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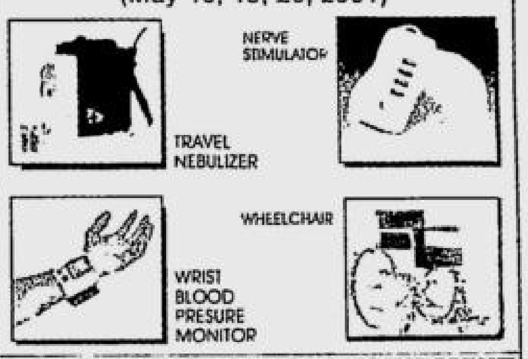

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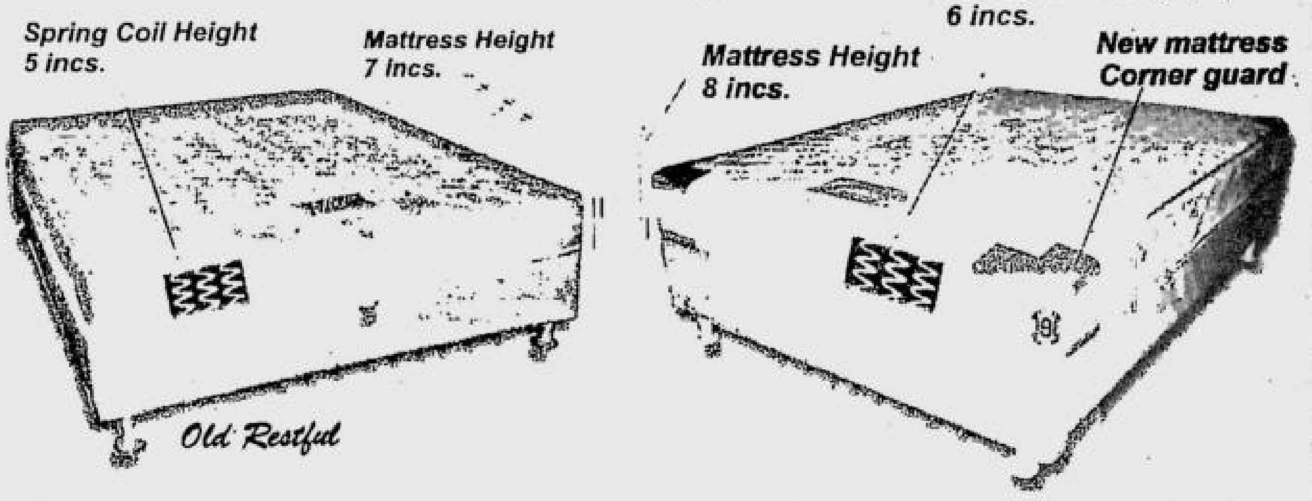
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OPINION

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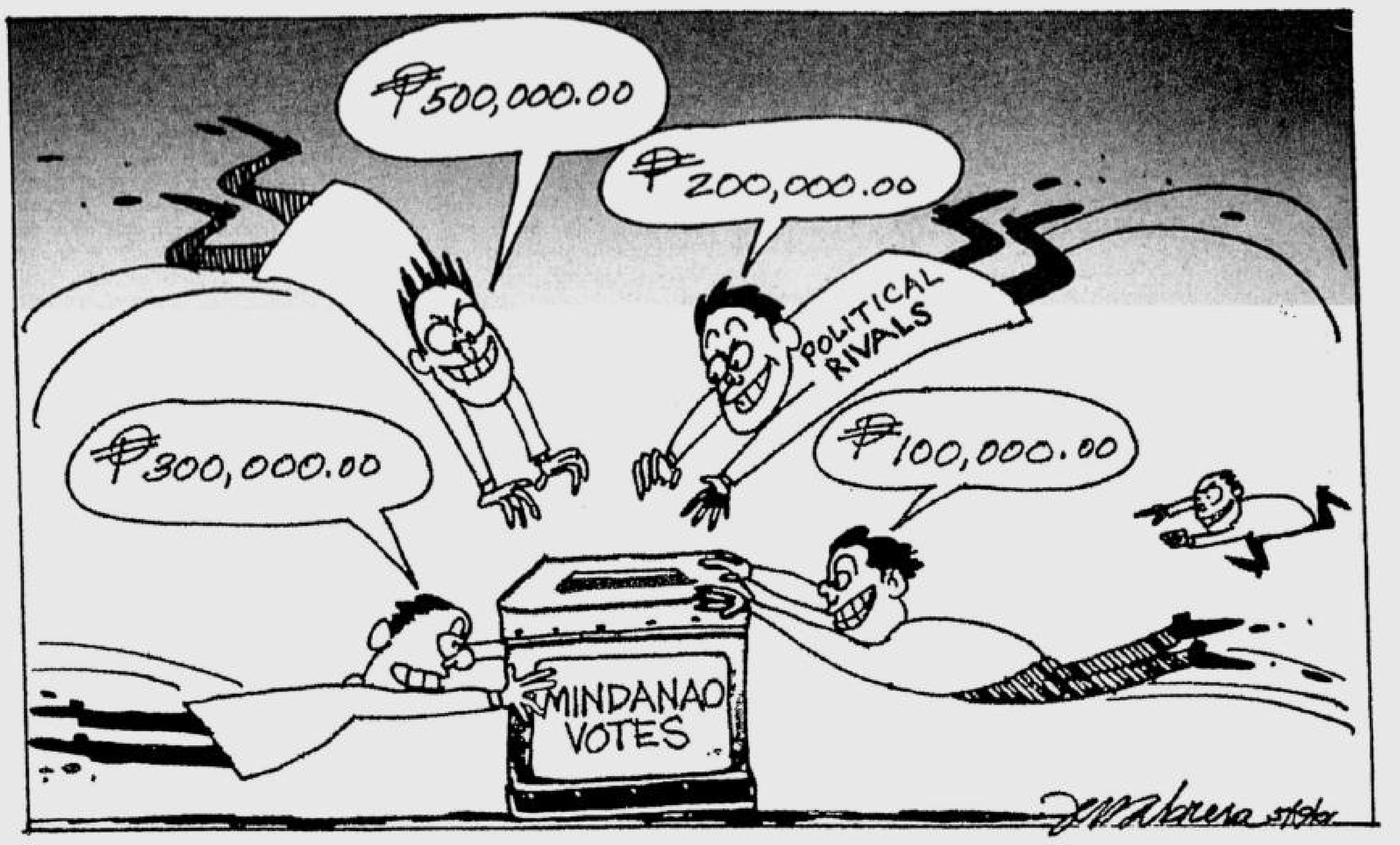

Stalemate in the Senate?

EDITORIAL

EVEN before the Commission on Elections can begin the official count of the May elections, we are already talking about presidential possibilities for the 2004 elections. The speculations, based on the unofficial tabulation of the senatorial elections showing an 8-4-1 result in favor of the People Power Coalition, are of course premature. They are a form of escapism from the more immediate concerns of the working relationship between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the next Congress.

Let's put first things first. Concerns have been expressed that a thin margin for the administration in the next Senate would be a recipe for an impasse. Assuming an 8-4-1 result, which appears to be developing, this would bring the number of administration seats in the next Senate to 11, two shy of a majority.

With three proclaimed independents—Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Noli de Castro (whose victory is certain)—and with 10 opposition senators, it looks like we are headed for a volatile situation in the Senate. On the surface, a stand-off seems likely. But if we consider the history of realignments in Congress relative to the presidency, the picture we get is not of impasse but of flexibility.

The concerns about a Senate stalemate come from observers who are used to political systems with well-defined party structures and institutions. In the Philippines, the porous multi-party system is both a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing in that party switching assures that there will be no stalemates. It's a curse in that it lends to volatility and instability of legislative coalitions.

Most Philippine presidents took power facing a Congress controlled by the opposition. This did not stop the president from eroding the opposition majorities by drawing some of their members to alliances called the "new majority" to marshal support for the executive's legislative agenda.

For example, President Diosdado Macapagal had an opposition Congress. But this did not prevent him from pushing his most important social legislation—agrarian reform—even if he had to call Congress to several special sessions to pass the reform measure. President Macapagal can take a leaf from her father's political will.

Since there are no hard party alignments or coalitions in the Senate, the coalitions are fair game for the administration. Neither the PPC nor the Puwersa ng Masa is a coalition forged by policy commitments. Each member of the Senate, barring none, thinks he or she is independent, drawing on the tradition nurtured by the fact that senators are elected, like the president, nationwide. The president is armed with enormous powers of persuasion, including causing defections through patronage.

These powers should never be discounted. They have been used by all presidents, most of all by deposed President Estrada, and there's no indication that President Macapagal will not use these weapons to line up coalitions to back her legislative agenda.

Since senators are not rigidly bound to any party policy framework, the fear of a prolonged deadlock has no basis in the tradition or history of executive-legislative relations.

We would like to think that alignments in the Senate will be determined by issues, and consensus can be negotiated from issue to issue. This should give the President enough room to negotiate with the senators for support for her legislative agenda. One can even expect a reorganization to be the first order of business in the Senate.

There's concern that the administration faces an immediate test of its capacity to dismantle legislative opposition in the passage of the Power Reform Bill, a bill crucial to avoid an energy crisis in 2004. This bill has been in Congress since 1995. President Macapagal plans to call a special session of the outgoing Congress to approve the bill. She could always try, but three to four days of special sessions are not likely to be enough to get the bill passed. It may be unwise to waste her political resources on pushing a complex bill in a lame-duck Congress.

Her real challenge lies in her relationship with the next Congress in which her capacity for consensus-building and the resilience of the opposition for compromise will be tested. There's plenty of room for maneuver to avoid deadlocks.

The omissions of the Commission

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH THE TABULATION of the election results creeping at the usual snail's pace, I wouldn't be surprised if we still won't know the winners in the senatorial race before their term begins on June 30. This may be an exaggeration, and I hope it is, but you never can tell. Stranger things have happened in this crazy country.

In Caloocan City, practically in the heart of Metro Manila, the election had to be delayed because—hear this—there were not enough ballot boxes and other election paraphernalia. The problem would have been understandable if it had arisen in a distant municipality in Mindanao with its inaccessible transportation and communication facilities. Caloocan City is not in the boondocks but is virtually a stone's throw away from the Comelec offices in Intramuros.

The Commission on Elections had all of three years to prepare for the 2001 elections but, in the event, it was still caught with its pants down. I realize that the conduct and supervision of the elections, especially if it is national in scope, is a mammoth task. But with all its difficulties, it can still be performed satisfactorily in pursuance of the constitutional objective of "free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections."

The Comelec had no shortage of financial and manpower resources. If it needed more funding, it should have requested and, with sufficient nagging, gotten it from Congress. As for personnel, it had enough of its own, let alone its authority to deputize law-enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces, to help it discharge its duties. The deputization would have required the concurrence of the President of the Philippines, who would not have begrudged it.

As it turned out, the Comelec could not have handled even the relatively minor problem of posters. There were pre-existing rules on their size, location, source, etc. embodied in the election laws and in its own regulations that it could have prepared to enforce in the 2001 elections after their flagrant violation in 1998. The problem was not nipped in the bud this year but in fact aggravated and proliferated in brazen defiance of the Comelec. The Comelec did nothing except make some indignant posturings and warnings.

If at the very start, it had prosecuted the early violators, the problem would not have spread beyond control. The Comelec inaction exacerbated the flouting of the law it was obligated to enforce. It did not act decisively enough. The Comelec could have not only punished the persons who actually pasted the posters but also, more effectively, *disqualified* the candidates themselves as principals by inducement. This would have put the fear of God in these rascals who apparently had no respect for the Comelec.

But the ubiquitous posters were actually the least of the problems the Comelec failed to correct. After all, they will eventually disappear with the coming rains. There were more serious election vices that continued to corrupt the people's suffrage in many places, to again enfeeble our Philippine-style democracy.

In some areas in Metro Manila—let alone the rural precincts where Comelec authority is hardly visible—the usual incubus of guns and gold continued to falsify the voters' verdict. Thousands of citizens were disfranchised, their names omitted in the registry lists for various reasons or no reason at all. Many were reassigned to new polling places without notice. Candidates bought or threatened voters and violence erupted as usual. Most suspicious of all, the canvass of the election returns has yet to be completed in many places for lack of light, of the election forms, of the canvassing boards, and various other excuses.

The overall result is a general feeling of curiosity, anxiety and, most of all, suspicion. It's déjà vu time again. The people remember past stolen elections, including the last two senatorial elections where losers reportedly sneaked into the winning list through some hocus-pocus clandestinely funded with millions of pesos. The older generation is wary of the reappearance of the birds and the bees that voted in Lanao in the 1949 presidential elections. Mindanao is still particularly vulnerable to wide-scale election cheating.

Doubt vitiates not only the Senate race but also the congressional and local elections. Even in these relatively small constituencies, where there are fewer votes to count and canvass, many of the winners are still waiting to be officially proclaimed at this late hour. And it is all of five whole days since the polls were opened and closed last Monday.

But with all that said, I must stress that the 2001 elections are not so generally and seriously flawed as to be completely invalid. In fact, I would say that, by and large, they have faithfully reflected the people's will, particularly in the Senate race, if the present trend continues in favor of the anti-Erap slate.

As I see it, the trouble with the Comelec is its membership. Besides its undistinguished credentials and performance, it is a fractious body torn apart by needless infighting. It's the current chair's bad luck that he is saddled with such inept colleagues. I can remember a more disciplined Comelec under the leadership of Gaudencio Garcia, Ramon H. Felipe, Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Christian Monsod, among others.

In fairness to Chair Alfredo Benipayo, it should be noted that he came to the Comelec at the wrong time. When he assumed office, the 2001 elections were already just around the corner and all the necessary preparations should have been in place. They were not, through no fault of his, and all he could do was make the best of a difficult situation. Some say that, in these circumstances, he should not have accepted the position at all. That is easier said than done when it is the President of the Philippines who is asking you to serve.

Anyway, the elections are over and the most we can hope for now is that they will serve as a lesson for future elections. Let's try to do better next time, although—come to think of it—we say this every time.

GMA should lead war against poverty

COMMENTARY

Ernesto M. Hilario

IN HER inaugural speech last Jan. 20, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spoke of liberating the poor from their miseries in these words: "We must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the war against poverty."

This, the first of what she called her "core beliefs," should have given the country's poor enough assurance that the new government cared for them and that it had their interest at heart first and foremost. But apparently the poor in this country do not care to listen to presidential speeches, or if they do, they do so with tons of cynicism. It is ironic that when the C, D and E classes came knocking on the gates of Malacañang on Labor Day, asking that the President deliver on her inaugural speech, they had to be turned away with truncheons, water cannons and M-16s. If the poor rewarded her with angry words and sticks and stones instead of accolades after her first 100 days in office, it may not be solely because they were goaded into a violent frenzy by scheming politicians. The poor stormed the seat of power because they have not seen a significant improvement in their standards of living despite the rosy promises of successive administrations.

The "Edsa III" rally that culminated in the siege on Malacañang should therefore be viewed as a wake-up call for the Macapagal administration, for underneath the pro-Estrada sentiment expressed by many of the participants was the cry of the poor for deliverance from their wretched situation.

The administration can survive its crisis of legitimacy only if it embarks on an honest-to-goodness anti-poverty program that will respond to the actual needs of the poor and significantly reduce the rank of the poor over time.

The anti-poverty program should be the flagship program of the administration until 2004. The administration should be judged mainly on its performance in poverty alleviation.

While there is already a National Anti-Poverty Commission that is tasked with coming up with pro-poor strategies sad programs, it should be the President no less who should personally lead the war against poverty.

As the flagship program, the anti-poverty campaign should be the locus around which other government thrusts, such as the anti-corruption drive, economic and the peace process can be situated. This means that the goal of the anti-corruption drive is precisely to channel previous resources to fighting poverty. Similarly, efforts to promote economic growth should be aimed at reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. The success of peace initiatives also hinge mainly on the government's ability to show results in its anti-poverty campaign.

The anti-poverty program obviously cannot do all things at the same time. There should be one or two priorities, such as livelihood generation and mass housing, and government resources should be directed toward these concerns in the next three years. The government should emphasize what is realistic and doable within this time frame.

There is also a clear need to communicate to the grass roots what the government is doing to address the problem of poverty. The Labor Day siege on Malacañang shows that many ordinary folk perceive the Erap administration to have been sincere in its pro-poor stance. This wrong perception should be corrected through a massive information campaign. But first, the President herself should declare the war against poverty drive as her flagship program and lead it on a daily basis. What this means is that Ms Macapagal will have to effectively seize the anti-poverty line from Erap.

The task before the administration is to win the trust and confidence of the poor who make up the majority of Filipinos. It must be able to rally the poor around a slogan that captures the essence of its anti-poverty thrust. This might prove difficult considering that Estrada appropriated for himself the "*para sa mahirap*" line. But action should prove louder than words. The government must show that it means business in fighting poverty. Every quarter, Ms Macapagal should render a report to the people on what she has achieved in the anti-poverty drive.

Can Ms Macapagal fight for the poor without at the same time waging war against the elite who brought her to power in the first place? The war against poverty is not necessarily a zero-sum game where one side loses as the other gains. If Ms Macapagal is able to strike a delicate balance between alleviating the plight of the poor and protecting the interests of the elite who provide the capital and the jobs, then we can avert a more serious social conflagration than what took piece on Labor Day.

Ernesto M. Hilario is a freelance journalist.

People get nervous whenever 'Jimpol' moves

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPY vs. spy in Mindanao, said yesterday's INQUIRER headline. It appears that former AFP Chief Lisandro Abadia, presidential assistant for Mindanao Jess Dureza and Wenceslao Andanar are trailing every move of former President Estrada's chief legislative liaison Jimmy "Jimpol" Policarpio and former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales. I don't blame the Macapagal administration for fielding the Abadia-Dureza-Andanar team to shadow the Policarpio group, for it would be worse for its image if the administration were cheated in the elections. *Magmumukhang tanga*, especially since there are intelligence reports that cheating will be done in six Mindanao provinces.

* * *

The fact is that many people get nervous whenever the amiable Policarpio moves, for he is a known operator, apart from being very loyal to Erap. Recall that Policarpio was repeatedly identified by Gov. Chavit Singson during the impeachment trial as Erap's special operations officer. Recall too that the opposition boasts of certain personalities who have achieved notoriety as skilled election manipulators and that a number of opposition leaders are said to have benefited from such hocus-pocus. The *dagdag-bawas* operation that caused Lakas candidate Obet Pagdanganan the senatorial election in 1998 and which reportedly cost P38 million, was said to have taken place in Mindanao. In fact, there are those who opine that Policarpio could be just a decoy for the real *dagdag-bawas* operators.

* * *

I note that some of our media colleagues have lately been clamoring for President Macapagal to extend the hand of reconciliation to the opposition for the sake of national unity. Some of our colleagues, too, have been applauding the breast-beating and the *mea culpas* of Catholic Church leaders over their neglect of poor Filipinos. Reconciliation is good, and so is the humility displayed by Church leaders in admitting their past mistakes. The local Church has taken the path blazed by that personification of humility, Pope John Paul II, who has apologized for the Church's silence during the Nazi regime and for various schisms in history in which it had a role.

* * *

But several things must be pointed out. First, President Macapagal has been doing her share of reconciliation even before the elections. For instance, she issued safe-conduct and arrest-free guarantees for the fugitive Puwersa ng Masa candidates so they could surface and resume their campaign. She visited her deposed predecessor and said she would pose no objection if the courts decided to allow him to be held under house arrest. What is disconcerting is that despite all the reconciliation efforts and the breast-beating, the opposition has not uttered any apology for its own mistakes and omissions. As Bayan Muna leader Satur Ocampo put it, the opposition has remained unrepentant.

* * *

For instance, has the opposition apologized for the May 1 assault on the Palace that left a few people dead and scores of the poor wounded? As various pundits have pointed out, the opposition politicized the poverty issue and manipulated the long-simmering resentment of the poor against the rich, until it turned into a vicious class war that threatened to explode in the nation's face. What is ironic about this manipulation, however, is that it was the Estrada administration that failed so grandly to live up to its promise to deliver the poor *masa* from their bondage. Instead of working for that promised liberation, all the unlamented leadership seemed to have attended to was enriching multiple families and cronies to world-class standards. Has Erap apologized for this grand deception he has foisted on his beloved *masa*?

Apologies to the poor? Sure, but let's spread it more evenly.

* * *

Everyone, it seems, is clamoring for the heads of the Comelec commissioners for what is generally believed to be one of the worst-managed elections in our history. But the opposition seems to zero in on new Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, heaping the blame for the entire mess on him. But as has been pointed out, Benipayo came in only last February. Secondly, it has been noted in the media and by other quarters, including Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion, that the greater part of the blame has to be laid on Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who has been in the poll body for three years now. Now former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou is also laying the blame on her former subordinate. Demetriou has denied this before, but she also has to be blamed for tolerating Tancangco's excesses instead of straightening her out.

* * *

As for Benipayo, prior to his appointment as poll body chief, he was the Supreme Court administrator for a number of years, a job that entailed the supervision of far more courts than there are Comelec offices. He admitted to the media that running the judiciary was far more difficult than running the Comelec, but he did not have a Tancangco to reckon with. Benipayo did reasonably well in his previous job, and there is no reason why he cannot run the Comelec well if he had more time to straighten out the mess, and if he didn't have to contend with the blocking force of Tancangco's faction. Benipayo looks like a very reasonable man and he wants to succeed in the job, but out there is a faction that seems obsessed with making him fail.

* * *

Tancangco, in my book, has to take the lion's share of the blame for the mess in the Comelec since she has adopted an obstructionist policy toward Benipayo from the moment he came in. Tancangco has botched up so many projects in the poll body, including the overprinting of ballots and, the major one, the automation of the elections. The most recent was the acquisition of substandard carbonless paper for the ballots, which left the duplicates unreadable.

Tancangco is a protégé of Joseph Estrada's brother-in-law, and one is tempted to think that when the Estrada administration collapsed, her directive was changed from a cheating mode to a sabotage mode in the mid-term elections. And she seems to have succeeded. This column supports the move to impeach Tancangco.

* * *

The GMA Para sa Kawal Cup will be held today at the Riviera Golf & Country Club, with President Macapagal, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and former President Ramos leading the bevy of participating golfers from the business community, the media, etc. Among the latest to join are Rogelio Chua, president and CEO of Bankard, and Jose "Pepito" Alvarez, president of Columbian Motors. The GMA Cup hopes to raise funds for Alay sa Kawal Foundation's beneficiaries, the widows and orphans of common soldiers killed or permanently incapacitated in the line of duty. Overall chair of the tournament committee is ASK board member Eliseo Alampay Jr.

Discovering the poor

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

ISN'T it amazing that in this day and age there still exist undiscovered islands in our archipelago? In early May we discovered one such island: a colony of smelly, boisterous and angry people. They are the poor among us.

All of a sudden, after the recent "poor people power" convulsion at Edsa, several "concerned" Filipinos were shocked to discover that "my God!" there are so many poor people among us. An outpouring of condescending pity flowed from all over. "Why, we didn't know there are real people out there who have their own gripes and grievances," they sang in chorus. "Let's find out what they want so we can help them," everyone chimed in.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Jaime Cardinal Sin, even apologized to the poor. Sin's mea culpa was astounding in its lateness. Did it really take all the past decades for the Church to learn that so many Filipinos suffer from poverty, victims of the manipulations of the ruling elite? Or did the Church simply choose to turn away whenever it saw signs of human decay and deprivation among its flock?

Sin's apology, late as it was, was the more astounding because it was an open admission that the Church had failed in its mission. Which is to lift its flock to a moral standard that befits a decent and just society. Government and business may goad the country to economic prosperity, but religion must guide the nation to moral and spiritual well-being.

The platitudes and patronizing drivel about giving the poor their due suddenly became the "in" thing to say. Besides the modern-day discovery of an island composed of drunken illiterates and gutter-smelling men and women, mainstream society found itself making urgent noises about repairing past damage, about making amends. We are decent people, they implicitly were saying, and we must do something for these people. Mainstream society came up with all manner of cant about doing good for the less lucky among us.

The problem with all the fuss being made in the aftermath of the poor people power exercise is that all the ensuing analyses and expressions of shocked pity were coming from people who belonged not among the victims but the victimizers. Therefore, their perspectives were foreign. And their prescriptions were all foreign—foreign meaning outside of the enclaves of the poor.

The historical problem with the struggle to uplift the poor of the underdeveloped world has been that those who formulate the proposed solutions are usually foreigners, experts in this and that field but whose on-the-ground experience is nil. The same happened in the deluge of commentary about who the people at "Edsa III" were and why they were there. All the commentary was coming from mainstream observers and prescription-writers. They hadn't experienced the milieu in which the underclass moves.

If the suggestions from concerned mainstreamers were put into practice, the results would be predictable. They would fail because they came from the wrong people, the wrong experts, the wrong advisers, perhaps even socially and culturally biased ones.

Poverty cannot be cured by instant medicine or by voodoo economics and even less so by gratuitous photo opportunities, like a top official eating with soldiers or the poor. Poverty is a serious affliction that requires sustained, serious and sincere nurturing. We cannot appease their anger by mimicking their ways, which is the same as insulting them whether they know it or not.

True, the poor at Edsa III were manipulated into a destructive rage. But, despite the fury with which these machinations were attacked in mainstream media, this isn't something new. Let's face it: the poor have always been manipulated by one side or another, whether it's the politicians, religious charlatans, businessmen or the rich. The manipulators have taken many forms, including oppressive landlords, usurious bankers, *jueteng* operators and their coddlers, conscience-less companies peddling all sorts of useless but addictive products, etc.

So manipulating the poor isn't the point about Edsa III. The point is that there's a large mass of Filipinos who are stranded on the margins of decent living. There's a large number of Filipinos who aren't part of the world in which even ordinary citizens like us live. And for years our leaders have denied their existence except when they needed cannon fodder for their personal wars and causes

The government has announced an urgent review of its approach to reducing poverty. Well and good. But it must do something beyond the so-called fast-track poverty-alleviation projects, high-profile undertakings meant more for visibility than honest-to-goodness results.

Edsa III nearly gave life to John Kennedy's warning: "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

Forget about politicians stoking the poor's anger. Those kind of politicians will always be around, unless we lined them up against a wall and made firing squads earn their pay. But that, however convenient and efficient, wouldn't be right.

Poverty, too, will always be around. But we can at least take a stab at reducing, if not totally eliminating, it. If this government is serious about leaving a lasting legacy, it must go where the poor live and lead them out of their rut. Without this accomplishment, all the other good things it may accomplish will come to naught.

As Samuel Johnson said: "A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization." If this government wants history to be kind to it, it must start by being civilized.

Leandro V. Coronel is a former spokesperson of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

United in fear

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

EVERY morning, rain or shine, I have my first cup of coffee while working on a crossword puzzle. This is a ritual; I get very upset and feel out of sync if it's interrupted, especially if it's a morning when I feel one year older than God. At times like that, it's better to cover your mirrors with a black cloth or exchange them for old ones that need restoration.

Anyway, I'm in deep intensive thought, my alpha waves leveling out, when the phone rings. I never did find out what a four-footed sloth is. Who should be on the other line but Teresita Ang See and she was asking whether I had heard from a friend of ours. Because if not, it was very possible "*dinamput siya*" on her way home from her office at 1 a.m. She had let off her messenger two blocks from her house because she figured it was safe enough, but never made it home. When she missed her appointments the following morning, alarms started ringing. Her cell phone wasn't answering and her children were frantic.

Tessie had just arrived from a trip and hadn't slept yet, but had already called the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and some generals and the Armed Forces and anyone else she could think of. I was stunned speechless.

What in heaven's name was this friend of ours working on that might signal danger to a person or persons unknown? It appears she had been receiving threats, which was even more alien. I mean, normally people aren't threatened with mayhem unless its a jealous husband or lover or if they find themselves in the unfortunate position of driving correctly down a one-way street and some moron is coming the other way. Or maybe times have become so stressful that you can get killed over a parking space. But threatening calls—that's something else.

As soon as I put down the phone, I took a sip of coffee that was now cold and yucky and dialled my editor. Her maid announced she had not even asked for her coffee yet. So I found another editor and begged him to banner our friend's disappearance to prevent the kidnappers from doing another Dacer. Her office and home phone were both busy, so no one seemed to know what she was working on but we were all sure it had to be some kind of exposé.

I was debating whether to call Rex R but I couldn't find my phone book that early in the morning. Instead I called another mutual friend whose wife was threatening (there goes that word again) to depart these shores for good if people they knew were getting killed. He was calling the US Embassy on the other line, and I supposed that was because we thought everyone there was with the CIA and knew something we didn't.

So we compared notes and it turned out that neither he or I knew anything more except that our friend had disappeared and he had already called Rex. We both agreed the mayhem was getting closer to home. People you know normally didn't just disappear. They're given *despedidas* and presents and sent off with teary farewells. This was the kind of thing you expected in Colombia or some other banana republic, not in our friendly, smiling isles.

The only other person I knew who got himself killed in broad daylight by a paid assassin was involved in some illegal ventures I knew nothing about. I am still not sure what exactly he was doing. I guess people don't go around discussing that kind of stuff in parties, thank God. Like in, "Would you believe I've got this neat little factory in Caloocan or wherever churning out tons of shabu?"

In the meantime our *desaparecida's* phones in the office and at home were still busy so we were still in the dark with no update. Teresita had done what she could and gone off to catch up on her sleep.

To keep myself busy, I went off to buy some squash seeds to munch on instead of chewing my nails. Back home, I remembered it was Mother's Day because my son called to say I was way over budget. This was worse than a bad-hair day.

Finally I called up Teresita's office and alleluiah, they said our friend was back home, only no one knew any details. Her phone, including her cell, was still busy. I heaved a sigh of relief and we were all tying up telephone lines exchanging the good news. I had the kitchen at Cosa Nostra prepare a pizza pesto and a spinach lasagna to be sent to her house. When I finally got through to her house phone, her son informed me his mother was asleep. No further information.

Later that evening I was getting ready to watch Aling Buding strut her stuff when the phone rang and I heard this familiar voice thanking me for the food. Was it my birthday or something?

"So, where were you?" I shouted at the top of my voice. "I've called up half of Manila looking for you and we're all worried sick and there you are cheery as hell."

"I was at the casino winning pots of money at the slot machine," she said.

WHAT! I couldn't believe what I was hearing. "A woman your age going off without informing anybody, missing your appointments…" I believe I was stuttering at this point.

So all's well that ends well and all that. But think about it. Why did we automatically think the worse? Why didn't we think she had an assignation and was wearing out the sheets some place? What kind of an environment do we live in that what Manny Pelaez asked years ago is being echoed by many of us: "What is happening to our country?" Fear might finally unite this nation.

No choice

Chilly Advincula-Aseremo

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY hubby and I are nurses. We studied and worked in urban Manila, but we both opted to till the land after we got married in 1997. We now live in a very remote barrio where the roads are not cemented and there is no electricity, no telecommunications, no water system. The uncemented roads become mini-rivers during the rainy season, and give you free face powder and hair spray (made of dust) when it is summer.

We do not exactly miss the wonders of electricity because we have the Philippine Daily Inquirer brought in from the poblacion every day by a tricycle driver and an overflowing bookshelf to provide us reading materials like books (Pat Conroy, James Michener, Richard Bach, John Grisham), magazines (Agriculture, MARID Agribusiness, Reader's Digest, Playboy and Penthouse), and other stuff downloaded and printed from the Internet (taken during trips to the nearest town). But we envy those living in the barrio next to ours because they have had electricity since the last quarter of the year 2000. And to think that the next barrio is just a half kilometer away.

In our barrio, there is no television, but dzRH is ever reliable on the transistor radio. No Smart or Globe. No faucets either; we get our drinking water from a free-flowing well 300 meters away from our nipa hut, and other water needs from our own diesel-fueled water pump. The water pump is a necessity because our plants need water especially during this time of El Niño.

Living in the barrio is relatively peaceful compared to living in Manila except, of course, when the elections are near.

Those people holding electoral positions who were running again, and those who were seeking election—they didn't know us from hell and didn't bother to know us before. But with May 14 fast approaching, they were suddenly flocking to our barrio with smiles pasted on their faces, shaking our hands, playing their irritating campaign jingles very loudly on their cars' loudspeakers (and megaphones) every day as they went around our barrio and the 35 other barrios in our town. Barrio fiestas were celebrated extravagantly, with those wannabes in full attendance, making speeches, singing, dancing and bantering with the crowd during the *discoral*, and announcing on stage the amount of their donations.

I wonder when my barrio mates will learn to look beyond this sudden and short-term superficial interest in our remote barrio and our simple lives. I impatiently wait for the day when they will shun vote-buying (as low as P20 from candidates for councilor), and do not get swayed by promises to cement our roads, build a farm-to-market bridge, provide electricity, etc. When will they be ready to really vote wisely? When will we ever get away from this tiring system where low-income households never rise from their economic status, where winning an election means you are on your first step toward siphoning the country's coffers into your pocket? When? When? When?

My hubby and I try to be as apolitical as possible, though that does not mean we are political ignoramuses. Together with concerned women-residents in our barrio, we have formed a women's cooperative since 1997. One of our projects is an election campaign program where political parties, on separate occasions, are given opportunities to campaign during our monthly meetings so we as voters will be able to: (1) personally identify the candidates; (2) hear about their parties' declared policies and programs; and (3) arrive at an informed decision as to whom to vote for during the elections.

I do hope that with this endeavor our barrio is taking the first step toward a fruitful future—in terms of family values, social mores and a vibrant economy where most of us are not poor.

Me? I do not exercise my right of suffrage. At the moment, it is enough that I help voters decide wisely. I will vote when efficient, effective and humane candidates have a fair chance of being elected. I do not want to choose between the evil and the lesser evil.

I hope that day will be soon.

Chilly Advincula-Aseremo, 29, lives in Oriental Mindoro.

Voting

Jason Guerrero Ducanes

I ASPIRE to live a happy life. I want to live in a world where everything is free, a world that is just and fair, where the rich and poor have equal access to nature's resources. And I want a world which is safe wherever I may go.

But I am dreaming. All these cannot be realized, or if they can, I don't know when it will happen.

I was born to a family of very modest means. If my parents work, then there is food on our table. If they don't or they can't, then the pots and kettles and plates remain clean the whole day and our stomachs are empty.

Most Filipinos live the same way. Many are probably worse off. At least we have a home of our own, for which I am grateful to the Almighty.

I am happy. I am happy because I have parents who are supportive of our dreams and aspirations. I am happy because I am in good health. I am happy because I can think and I can reason out. I am happy that in spite of our family's very limited means, my two older brothers managed to finish their courses.

But I am happy only when I am at home or in school. Outside the four corners of our home or our classrooms, my heart melts.

My heart melts for I cannot bear to see children roaming the streets and begging for coins. I don't want to see their bitter smiles as they share some food on a corner, for back in their minds they cannot be sure if they will have something to share the following day.

I am mad when I see the extravagance of rich people. I am angry when I see them spend money on useless luxuries, while millions of our fellow Filipinos don't even have enough to eat. But I don't have the faintest idea about how such inequality can be erased.

Right now, I am wondering what will be the future of our children and the generations to come. Will they breathe fresh and clean air? Will they drink clean water? Will there be enough space for them? Will there be peace in our country? These are the unanswered questions that bother me now.

During elections, Filipino voters decide who they will have as lawmakers and leaders of their provinces, cities or towns. I hope that last Monday, they voted responsibly, picking the candidates who have the experience, the competence and the vision to deal with these problems. I hope that they picked the candidates who will fight for their principles and work for the common good, not for their own selfish interests. I hope and pray that our voters made wise choices for our future depends on it.

Jason Guerrero Ducanes, 19, is a BS Commerce scholar at the Ateneo de Zamboanga.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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Reforms in tax collection

RECENTLY the government announced that it was able to trim down the anticipated budget deficit, saying this was due to its austerity measures.

Is it really good news? I do not think so. The past four administrations have emphasized the expenditure side of the government account. Thus, their pronouncements have almost always centered on the need for the government to tighten its belt. What this means is that the necessary classrooms are not being built, and the critical numbers of teachers are not being hired; the much-needed roads, ports and bridges are not being constructed; social welfare continues to be constricted. Fiscal prudence? Far from it.

A recent World Bank study estimated losses on account of corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue to be in the magnitude of 50 centavos for every peso. Recovering that would be more than sufficient to wipe out this and next year's estimated deficit of P130 billion and P125 billion, respectively. Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's estimate indicates that these losses can amount to about P400 billion annually. Is not that a strong argument to call for a thorough reform of the BIR?

The BIR accounts for nearly 80 percent of the revenues of the national government. The other collecting agencies are the Bureau of Treasury, Bureau of Customs and other agencies collecting various fees. While there may be equally wretched conditions in Customs, the sheer magnitude of the BIR's share makes it deserve special attention.

I see four areas where reforms in the BIR should be pursued:

- Government policy/legislation—There were initiatives to undertake tax administration reforms in the past, including legislative intervention. But this has been done piecemeal. They amended one law here and another law there when what was needed was a sweeping, across the board, top-to-bottom review and changes in the laws.
- Tax collection procedures—What is the taxation policy that the government should implement, a complex one, or a simplified one? Do you tax input or output? Do you have a withholding tax side by side with final tax? I suspect the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program has not been really comprehensive.
- Institutional strategy—Since the time of Jesus Christ, tax collectors have been a hated, loathed lot. They need not be. I believe tax collection is a noble profession because without tax collectors, where will the government get the money it needs to do its job? But as it is now organized, the BIR is bound to be corrupt till kingdom come. For one thing, the salary level leaves much to be desired. For another thing, performance is not linked to reward and punishment. We should be able to hire and fire, or even hang crooked tax men as often as necessary and not one every century.
- Tax collection requires a certain kind of person. Today's tax collectors must be competent and imbued with integrity.

The same fervor that fired people up during those frenzied Edsa days should be mobilized for fundamental and difficult reforms in tax administration.

Meanwhile let us stop talking about raising taxes and start working for higher tax collection.—**F. KENNEDY CORONEL, executive director, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc., Ground Floor, Rm. 105-106, Cristina 1 Bldg., 71 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City**

Punzalan's murder condemned

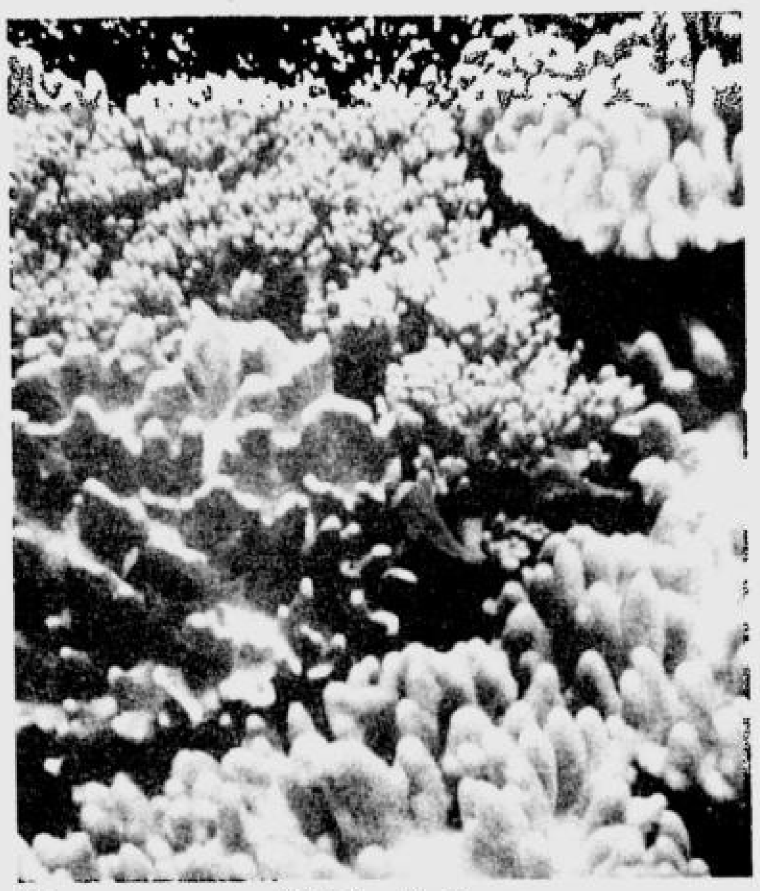
THE TAKING of another human life can never be justified in the eyes of God and thus should never be justified in the eyes of humankind. Regardless of how we have chosen to lead our lives, whether we follow the path to righteousness or wallow in the grime of sin, after everything has been said and done, only God and God alone has the right to pass final judgment on each human soul.

Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. has been responsible for a lot of things to a lot of people in this lifetime. And he deserved to be chastised and praised, to be punished and rewarded. But no one, save God, is given the right to take his life.

His murder, whether it was politically motivated or not, should be condemned by all who believe in the Lord's supreme justice. This act of taking another person's life can never be justified by anything conceived to be right or wrong in the eyes of mere humans.

We, as human beings, were given the responsibility of taking care of all of God's creations, of loving one another, of living righteous lives that will lead us to God's promise of eternal life. Thus, we have passed laws and imposed punishments that will ensure that we keep to the right path. Sometimes, these laws may seem ineffectual in the face of the vast human capacity for evil, but we remain firm in our faith that God sees all and will ensure that justice will be served in the end. So we exert our best efforts to see that justice is served within human bounds, within the dictates of the law. No one is exempt from the limitations of these laws.

Neither the New People's Army nor Punzalan's political rivals have the right to take the law into their own hands. I strongly condemn this dastardly deed.—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, UP Diliman parish, Quezon City**



Pressure on US to follow gas emission pact

TODAY I had to tell my little daughter about a problem I did not want to bother her with until she was somewhat older. But I had to do so because she was going to be affected by a decision I made. I decided today to boycott as many American products as possible because of the way US President George W. Bush and his fellow Americans treat the Kyoto accord on the emission of carbon dioxide.

After explaining to my 10-year-old daughter the problem and the effects this had on the climate and the coral reefs, she wondered: "So their pollution reaches even our place here in the Philippines? We must find a way to keep it over there."

I told her that that was not possible and that all leaders of the world had made an agreement to solve the problem. Now, one year later, the Americans decided not to honor the agreement. The only way to pressure the Americans into honoring the agreement is by boycotting their businesses.

I asked her if it was okay for her if we would not buy any Disney video's anymore. After the initial shock, she agreed and said: "I will tell my friends that they also should not buy these American products anymore." Probably in the hope that that would speed up the process so we could buy the next Disney video when it is released.—**ARJAN HEINEN, Barangay Tugas, Baliangao, Misamis Occidental**

LETTERS

'Bawas' useless in party-list poll

PARTY-LIST candidates do not fight for the most number of votes. It is not where more votes win over lesser votes. A party list merely tries to earn a fixed quota of 2 percent per Congress seat. Any excess over 2 percent but less than 4 percent has no more meaning and reducing the votes of others will not help anybody.

Therefore, *bawas* is absolutely not needed, only *dagdag*. Nobody will pay for *bawas* and no Comelec official will benefit from *bawas* because it is not needed or wanted by anybody.

Close guarding is necessary only to prevent *dagdag*. Votes for party list are very intelligent and very honest votes. Every party-list vote should be counted.—**ANGEL LAZARO JR., 150 Panay Ave., cor. Edsa, Quezon City**

Kids used for begging by syndicates

ON MY way home from work, I passed by a pathetic sight. Lying on the ground, by the roadside was a little girl, no more than 2 years old, who was so thin that you could count the ribs on her side. Nearby was an adult (her mother perhaps?) with a hand outstretched, begging. Flies by the hundreds swarmed all over her body. The smell was nauseating. The place reeked of filth.

I was furious when I learned that this poor child is controlled by a drug syndicate which is also engaged in child trafficking. They carry out hourly and daily this hellish business under the very noses of policemen and other law enforcers. Are these officers on the payroll of these evil and criminal gangs?

I am confused. One part of me tells me to love and pray for them. The other side tells me to go look for them, deliver a left hook or two on their jaws and tell them to go to hell.—**REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE, professor, Luna Colleges, Tayug, Pangasinan**

A beautiful tree at Edsa Shrine

I WONDER if, during the six days of the so-called Edsa III, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was reminded that once upon a time in December 1989, she planted a golden shower tree (also called the St. Lorenzo Ruiz tree) assisted, I guess, with prayers by Jaime Cardinal Sin near the Edsa Shrine.

Planted near the adoration chapel, the tree has grown into a beautiful tree on these holy grounds. The cardinal must have seen something in Santiago who was then a Cabinet member.

If given the chance again to serve the people, I hope Santiago will visit this beautiful thing growing on holy ground so she will be reminded of the past.—**RONI BAUTISTA, 128 Pioneer St., Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City**

Against terrible odds

ALLOW me to react to the views expressed in the editorial last April 23, 2001.

The main point of the editorial was that our report on the Air Philippines Flight 541 accident in Davao last year could not have been a "valid account of the incident since it was made by a special committee headed by retired Air Force Gen. William K. Hotchkiss." It also said that our committee "was faced with the daunting task of delivering a fair and factual report quickly and convincingly in the face of terrible odds." Mention was made of William Gatchalian and Lucio Tan and by insinuation, then President Joseph E. Estrada, as the terrible odds. I am already sweating.

Daunting task, terrible odds, indeed! When I was still a captain in the Air Force, I was given the daunting task of investigating a fatal F-5 jet fighter accident involving the son-in-law of the Air Force chief at that time. One of the plane's engines (the F-5 is a twin-engine jet fighter) failed after takeoff but when the pilot came in for landing he failed to control his airplane and he crashed with fatal results about a half mile from the landing point.

I came up with the finding of "pilot error" in spite of the engine failure for the simple reason that the F-5 can be flown and landed safely even with only one good engine. (Our investigation showed that there was nothing wrong with the good engine up to the time of impact.)

The Air Force chief naturally blew his top when he read my report, called for my wing commander and bawled him out and directed to tell me to change the cause of the accident to material failure. The pilot was a good friend of mine. His father-in-law, the PAF chief, was one of those warrior generals who could freeze a wing commander in his tracks just by raising his voice. I, a mere captain, could have played ball to stay in the good graces of my wing commander and the Air Force chief himself. But I stood my ground because I knew it was the professional thing to do. An aircraft accident report is not a search for a convenient scapegoat but a search for the truth as much as it can be approximated so that similar accidents may be prevented in the future. That report is still in the Air Force files.

Terrible odds! Let me tell you about terrible, "sweat in the balls," kind of odds. When I was still a lieutenant, I flew as stuntman of the famed Blue Diamonds, in the Air Force precision aerobatic team. One of my daunting tasks was to fly inverted at 700 kilometers per hour and at about 50 feet from the ground. Well, I faced those and similar terrible odds countless times and I consider those odds as part of my breakfast fare, to borrow the words of our favorite senator.

But who could have been more daunting than former President Ferdinand E. Marcos. If you ask Fr. James Reuter to name two authentic Edsa I heroes, I am sure Charles Hotchkiss, my brother, would be one of those two names. If you ask around a bit more, you might find out that the name Hotchkiss is equated with physical and moral courage based on deeply imbedded professional and personal values. We don't play it safe. We don't run away from a good fight, and we definitely don't kowtow to anybody.

Of course, you did say that "Hotchkiss is a respected Air Force general." Well, I earned that respect because I have always conducted myself in a professional manner since the time I graduated from the PAF Flying School in 1964. I accepted the job as chair of that Independent Investigation Committee because I felt I was qualified for the job. Besides, it was the president of the republic who created the committee and it was a valid call for public service.

In sum, my service reputation and about 40 years of aviation experience are stamped on our committee report and I fully stand by it. I also stand four-square behind the Technical Working Group (TWG) report which was the basis of our committee report and which was in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) procedures.

The members of the TWG, Capt. Amado Soliman, retired Brig. Gen. Tereso Isleta, Col. Ramon Ragasa, Capt. Romulo Villanueva Jr., Capt. Bernadette Buhayo and Abcede Abalos are all trained and well-experienced accident investigators and were hand-picked by me. I doubt if anybody can come up with a better team of aircraft accident investigators.

The committee did not "merely point to pilot error as the probable cause." I suggest that you read the report in its entirety. Better still, have it vetted by at least a qualified aircraft accident investigator. And please don't mistake detailed reporting as "hemming and hawing."

Finally, an aircraft accident investigation is not intended to look for scapegoats. Neither should it be used as fodder for those who would like to feed on the bones of the dead. It is for us, the living, to learn lessons from, so that hopefully we don't repeat the experience.—**LT. GEN. WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS III (ret.), Cantilan, Surigao del Sur**

Ideological battlefield in Cuba

FEATURE

Andrew Cawthorne

HAVANA—As an image-conscious young guerrilla leader who his foes claimed was dead early in 1957, Fidel Castro played a propaganda trick on a New York Times reporter up in Cuba's Sierra Maestra mountains.

Eager to show the world he was alive, and also to give the impression his band of only 18 rebels was a formidable fighting force, Castro kept his men marching back and forth during the interview to give the impression of a camp bustling with men.

The inventive Castro also kept reporter Herbert Matthews waiting while he supposedly returned from a visit to a second rebel camp—another fiction that had the desired effect.

"One got a feeling he is now invincible," Matthews wrote in a report that helped awaken the world to the Cuban rebel leader whose then-fledgling army was to topple dictator Fulgencio Batista in the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

The incident was an early sign of the acute media awareness that characterized Castro's political career from the outset. And these days, with Castro now in his 43rd year in power, the role of the media—national and foreign—is a particularly sensitive and politicized subject.

Local state-run media, at the forefront of what Castro calls Cuba's new "Battle of Ideas" against Western-style capitalism, say they represent a pure form of journalism unadulterated by greedy owners or a taste for the salacious. But international press watchdogs routinely put Castro on their lists of the world's top "enemies of the press."

As for the foreign media, long used to being caught in the fierce US-Cuba ideological crossfire, correspondents are still hunkering down after a barrage of criticism from Cuba's government this year over their "distortions" of Cuban reality. One veteran correspondent, parodied as "Pinocchio" in the official daily Granma, had little choice but to leave.

In addition, about 80 Cuban dissident journalists, partially funded by Washington via aid to anti-Communist Cuban American groups, operate in defiance of a government that denounces them as "mercenaries" and "traitors." Castro's foes abroad, particularly in Florida, beam hundreds of hours of broadcasts daily into the island via Radio Marti and other stations in a bid to undermine his rule.

Meanwhile, Castro stays just as interested in the media as he was when he pulled the wool over Matthews' eyes in 1957. Known for his meticulous daily scrutiny of foreign news agency reports, Castro went one step further in a recent speech: even before he finished speaking, he was quoting his opening remarks as reported by the Italian agency ANSA.

Foreigners' views on Cuba's media were exemplified on May 3, Press Freedom Day, when groups from Paris to New York put Castro on lists of "tyrants" accused of crushing the media. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, for example, accused him of a "scorched-earth assault on independent Cuban journalists by interrogating and detaining reporters, monitoring and interrupting their telephone calls, restricting their travel and routinely putting them under house arrest to prevent coverage of certain events." It said Cuba was also intimidating dissident journalists by picking them up and releasing them hundreds of miles from their homes and was the only Western Hemisphere nation currently keeping a reporter, Bernardo Arevalo Padron, in jail.

Simultaneously, Cuban state journalists mounted a passionate defense of their work and a scathing attack on Western-style "imperialist" journalism as a market-orientated industry at the service of Establishment interests. "They have an ethic: That which is not profitable has no place on Earth," Tubel Paez, head of Cuba's official journalist union, said on a recent state TV program about press freedom. An article on the union website commemorating Press Freedom Day said five Western news agencies distribute 96 percent of foreign news, "meaning the South suffers the paradox of being seen and counted by the same people who exercise cultural and economic domination over it." By contrast, union member Juan Marrero wrote, "Cuba's media have the immense privilege of being outside the orbit of the market economy...The Cuban press can call itself one of the freest and most independent in the world."

Cuba's state journalists, hailed by Castro as "a revolutionary troop at the vanguard," are currently immersed in an 18-month-old "Battle of Ideas" born out of the start of the Elian Gonzalez affair in November, 1999.

As well as blanket coverage of Cuba's resurgent use of mass rallies, the media analyze daily the virtues of local socialism over Western capitalism, and state TV has institutionalized a nightly two-hour "roundtable" spot, which has become a powerful platform for official views and information.

Castro decries personality cults and does not allow public monuments to be erected to him, yet he is omnipresent every day in local media through his words and image. News deemed negative—accidents, for example—are often relegated to tiny spaces, while dissident activities receive no coverage.

As with the old Soviet Union's equivalent, Pravda, readers scour the pages of the ruling Communist Party daily Granma for hints—often hidden away at the end of lengthy reports—as to what is going on in the circles of power.

Cuba has always been clear about journalists' role. A 1984 union ethical code, for example, spells out that they should "maintain ideological firmness on the basis of Marxist-Leninist principles, and combat with intransigence the manifestations of bourgeois ideology."

On the other side of the spectrum, dozens of self-styled "independent" journalists work without authorization to send stories abroad, mainly by dictating to contacts in Florida.

Some are disaffected state journalists but most are opposition activists who have crossed into news, according to the dissident journalists themselves. Their stories are generally virulently anti-government, often focusing on the vicissitudes of daily life on the streets of Cuba.

Raul Rivero, a founder of Cuba's dissident journalist movement in the mid-1990s, said the level of professionalism of his colleagues was inevitably low since they have no formal training and suffer technological deficiencies. "As the official press does 'revolutionary journalism,' they react by doing 'anti-revolutionary press.' Neither is good journalism."

Rivero was disdainful about the official media, where he once worked as a correspondent for state news agency Prensa Latina in Moscow. "There is a level of propaganda like never before. It's total fanaticism," he said in an interview at his Havana apartment.

The dissident journalist movement, divided into about 20 small groups, is hampered by close vigilance and even infiltration from state security and its use by some members as a way to earn a US visa out of Cuba.

But Rivero himself has won considerable prestige in international media circles, although he has been prohibited from traveling for 13 years, including to collect prizes.

Another dissident journalist, Jose Fornaris, argued in a recent article that his colleagues should be applauded just for existing: "Bear in mind that independent journalists don't have computers or cars, most don't have phones, some don't even have a home, money, clothes, food or freedom. The only thing they have in abundance is risk."

Foreign journalists stationed in Havana find themselves in the thick of the ideological war over Cuba. They are frequently criticized not only by the government but also—sometimes over the same articles—by dissidents and anti-Castro Cuban Americans for not taking a tough enough line on Havana. ***Reuters***

US backs move to allow goods to reach Iraqis

REUTERS

MOTHER-TO-BE PRINCESS

Crown Princess Masako smiles while bidding farewell to her husband upon his departure at the Togu Palace in Tokyo May 18 for a weeklong visit to Britain. It was the public's first real look at the princess other than brief glimpses through a car window since the Imperial Household Agency announced on Tuesday that she was pregnant with a possible heir to the world's oldest monarchy.

WASHINGTON—The United States is abandoning its unpopular 11-year campaign to isolate Iraq with broad trade sanctions, deciding instead to back a plan that would allow consumer goods to reach the Iraqi people while attempting to toughen controls on military goods entering the country.

Britain, which stood virtually alone with the United States on maintaining the harsher UN sanctions, proposed this week a major easing of the embargo. The United States lined up with this plan Thursday.

The shift in US policy took four months to crystallize as Secretary of State Colin Powell vied with the Pentagon and other sectors of the administration over imported items with potential application to Iraq's military.

Even now, as American diplomats consult with other governments on a prospective UN resolution to be introduced next week to lift the economic sanctions, administration officials are debating privately which so-called dual-use items to ban and which to approve for export to Iraq, a senior US official said.

"We're working toward what will be a significant change in our approach to Iraq in the United Nations," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Thursday. "The focus is on strengthening controls to prevent Iraq from rebuilding military capability in weapons of mass destruction while facilitating a broader flow of goods to the civilian population of Iraq."

Powell is inclined to take a lenient view of such items as water pumps and refrigerated trucks, which theoretically could be used for military purposes but are much more likely to lessen the pain of the Iraqi people.

A list is being compiled of items that would remain off-limits to Iraq, their value and their use. At the same time, American diplomats are resisting efforts by other governments to go further in the direction of leniency.

The UN sanctions on weapons and consumer goods were imposed as part of a US-led drive to reverse Iraq's annexation of Kuwait in 1990. Powell was chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War, which liberated Kuwait but left Saddam in power.

Assistant Secretary of State David Welch, who is in charge of international organizations and oversees US diplomacy at the United Nations, is ending a trip to Europe, where he consulted with French, Belgian and other officials on the upcoming resolution.

British officials have said they received positive responses to the proposal from, among others, France, China and Russia, besides the United States and Britain the only members of the UN Security Council with veto power. But Russia and China were far less supporting in public statements on Thursday

To varying degrees, all three have opposed the current sanctions policy. *AP*

Islanders brand Bush energy plan a 'crime'

SYDNEY—Pacific and Australian environmentalists reacted with horror on Friday to US President George W. Bush's plan to boost coal, oil and nuclear power production, branding the proposal a "crime."

Among the most vulnerable to climate change, a group representing Pacific islanders complained the region's concerns were being ignored, even though some of its tiny, low-lying nations faced obliteration if sea levels rose too far.

"If worst comes to worst, if it comes to the crunch in climate change, some communities and cultures here will cease to exist. It's totally unjust," said Patrina Dumaru, climate officer for the Fiji-based Pacific Concerns Resources Center.

"We are all environmental criminals. But there must be a new category for the United States. I would like to see an international justice system that would recognize this crime," said Dumaru, whose organization is a regional umbrella group for nongovernmental organizations.

The small Pacific island states face more intense cyclones, sea erosion and some may sink beneath the waves if temperatures continue to rise due to global warming, according to studies

"We do not generate all that much pollution but are always at the receiving end," said an official in Kiribati, a collection of 33 islands, with 65,000 people, astride the equator.

Bush, a former Texas oil man, on Thursday offered measures to drive up production in nuclear energy and fossil fuels in order to beat back high oil prices, blackouts and a "darker future."

The proposals included $10 billion in tax incentives for hybrid vehicles that use a combination of solar power and petrol, and for homeowners to install solar panels.

But global environmentalists accused the US president of delivering an "energy scam" rather than a plan, and said it could have been drafted in a boardroom of one of the US oil firms.

Australian Greens leader Sen. Bob Brown accused Bush of paying back the oil interests who supported his campaign.

"He's come up with a combination of Exxon Valdez and Chernobyl," Brown said, adding Bush had missed a once-in-a-generation chance to give the so-called Sunrise Industries, developing new forms of energy, a fillip. *Reuters*

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Taiwan's Chen seeks to join Shanghai meet

TAIPEI—Taiwanese leader Chen Shui-bian yesterday urged China's leader to be bold and allow him to attend the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shanghai this fall.

Chen also repeated his invitation to hold talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin—an event that has been blocked by longstanding political disputes between the two rivals, which split amid civil war in 1949.

During a speech marking his first year in office, the Taiwanese leader said that Jiang should "open his mind and be bold and create history" by letting him attend the Apec meeting in October.

"An Apec member has its rights and obligations to fulfill, and I sincerely hope to attend the summit in person," Chen said.

Although Taiwan is one of Apec's 21 members, China has refused to allow Taiwan's president attend meetings. Taiwan joined the organization as an economy with Beijing's consent.

China considers Taiwan to be a province that should be under its rule, and Beijing opposes Taiwan's attempts to enjoy privileges reserved for independent nations.

Cheng Yung-chin, an opposition Nationalist Party lawmaker, said Chen's summit offer is bound to be rejected.

"It is but empty talk if he refuses to make adjustments or abandon his ideology," Cheng told reporters.

Chinese leaders have said that before they meet with Chen, he must show a greater commitment to their sacred goal of reunification. Specifically, Beijing wants Chen to agree that Taiwan is an inseparable part of "one China."

Chen considers Beijing's one-China principle to be vague and wants to discuss it with Chinese leaders before agreeing to it.

Apec members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Gaza Strip violence rages on

JERUSALEM—Palestinians fired a mortar shell at an Israeli settlement in Gaza early yesterday, the third in a day, but there were also the first buds of truce efforts based on the report of an international commission. A mortar shell exploded among the greenhouses at the Jewish settlement of Gadid in the southern Gaza Strip after daybreak. Earlier, a shell landed near Nir Am, an Israeli village just outside Gaza, and another exploded in the yard of a house in the Jewish settlement of Netzer Hazani in the Gaza Strip. No one was hurt. In a message to The Associated Press, the militant Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the first two mortar attacks. *AP*

Macedonian troops hold fire

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Heeding Western calls for restraint, Macedonian government forces held their fire Thursday as a deadline passed for ethnic Albanian rebels holed up in northern villages to surrender. Sporadic clashes that the Army blamed on the militants were reported early Thursday, and a brief firefight erupted later. But the frontline, near Macedonia's border with Kosovo, remained generally quiet as the deadline passed at noon. The restraint was in marked contrast with earlier government threats to "eliminate" the insurgents unless they heeded the ultimatum. The government decision to back off from an all-out offensive came after intense international lobbying, generated by fears that fighting in Macedonia could spill over to neighboring countries. Nato Secretary General Lord Robertson urged Macedonia's new, multiethnic unity government to press ahead with reforms empowering the ethnic Albanian minority. This, he said, would "undermine the political agenda of the gunmen." *AP*

Iran plane crash kills minister, 28 others

TEHRAN, Iran—A plane carrying Iran's transport minister has crashed in northern Iran, killing all 29 people on board, the Interior Ministry said Thursday. The plane was carrying 19 passengers and 10 crew, including Transport Minister Rahman Dadman and six members of parliament, Tehran airport officials said. After disappearing early Thursday, the plane was found several hours later in the mountains between Gorgan and Shahroud, about 330 km northeast of Tehran, an Interior Ministry official said. Dadman and his delegation were on their way to Gorgan, 310 km northeast of Tehran, to inaugurate the city's airport, the local governor said on state television. *AP*

Car bomb kills 6 in Colombia city

BOGOTA, Colombia—A car bomb exploded in a neighborhood of upscale nightspots in Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city, killing six people and injuring 82 others, officials said. Isaac Gaviria, director of Metroseguridad, a paramedic organization, said at least 30 people were seriously injured in the blast late Thursday, which also severely damaged nearby restaurants and apartment buildings. Police said the bomb was placed in a Volkswagen sedan and set off by remote control. Authorities were unaware of a motive. Medellin was the scene of frequent bombings by drug traffickers in the 1980s and early '90s. Two weeks ago, a car bomb in Cali—Colombia's third largest city—killed four and injured dozens, including several members of a professional soccer team staying in a hotel nearby. *AP*

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Bombings stop canvass of votes in some hot spots

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—A 51-year-old woman was injured when a bomb exploded in front of the provincial capitol here Thursday evening, adding tension to an already volatile political situation in the province.

A police report identified the victim as Eufemia Sierra, resident of Barangay Lapidario, this city.

She was immediately rushed to the nearby Andres Bonifacio Hospital.

SPO3 Trinidad Bustamante of the Trece Martires police station said the bomb was "high-powered."

She declined to make any conclusion on the possible motives of the perpetrators, saying the police are still investigating the bombing.

But for losing incumbent Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., the bombings in the past two days were both politically connected to send a message of fear.

"These bombing incidents were all part of the violent designs by my political opponent to sow fear among the ranks of my protesting supporters who believe that what happened last Monday at the polls was not the true mandate of the people in this province," Revilla said in a statement.

Hidden grenade

On Wednesday, explosives experts discovered a concealed rifle grenade under the car of a staff member of Revilla while thousands of his protesting supporters were staging a prayer-protest rally at the provincial capitol compound to condemn massive cheating, election fraud and irregularities allegedly committed by the Partido Magdalo.

The protesters had asked the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of elections in the province.

They asserted that the Monday election was null and void, pointing to the alleged connivance between some Comelec officials and local politicians to commit election irregularities.

Revilla said he would voluntarily step down from his post if found that he really lost in a fair and honest election and that the Caviteños did not really vote for him.

"I'm willing to step down. But with all the terrorism that is happening now in Cavite, and the systematic election fraud that they committed during the last election, conceding is out of the question," he said.

Reaction

Olie Maliksi, wife of Revilla's gubernatorial opponent Rep. Ireneo Maliksi, chided the camp of Revilla for refusing to accept the will of the people.

"The election here in Cavite was generally peaceful. We invited all the media to conduct their own investigation to find (out) for themselves whether the claims of election irregularities by the Revillas have grains of truth or (are) just pure lies and scheming designs," she said in a phone interview.

She said the incumbent governor should just accept and respect the decision by the Caviteños.

"Their message is very clear: They have had enough of the Revillas," Ms Maliksi added.

"If Governor Revilla will just accept his defeat and would no longer resort to all these tactics, probably history will be kinder to him. Let us all forget politics and instead work together for the common good of Cavite," she said.

The counting also turned violent from slow-paced in Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato, military records here showed.

10 attacks

The Philippine Army here reported 10 grenade attacks in the three provinces since election day.

The explosions occurred in town centers where the counting and canvassing of votes were being held.

A soldier, working as an escort of a local poll official in SK Pendatun town, Maguindanao was killed while his six companions were wounded when unidentified men lobbed a hand grenade at the town plaza.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said Pfc. Dionisio Reyes of the Army's 47th Infantry Battalion, died from shrapnel wounds when a fragmentation grenade landed beside him Wednesday night.

Also injured were Sgt. Gerry Lena, Pfcs. Rudy Diaz, Eric Peralta, Gil Toreta, Warren Salazar and Ulysses Nicor.

The latest explosion rocked the town of Upi, Maguindanao on Wednesday night.

Ando said a rifle grenade was fired from the perimeter of Barangay Nuro, a few kilometers from the town hall where the counting was held.

Counting suspended

The blast triggered the suspension of the canvassing.

Every now and then people would start leaving the canvassing sites after rumors circulated that another grenade will be launched, forcing poll officials to suspend the balloting.

For two days now, the canvassing in Upi has been suspended because its election officer, who chairs the board of canvassers, was reported missing.

On Tuesday night, four grenade explosions rocked the town plaza of Parang, Maguindanao. No one was injured.

Because of the blasts, Comelec officials transferred the counting and canvassing of votes from the town hall to the PNP-ARMM regional office compound, also in Parang.

In Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, a rifle grenade also exploded near the town hall sending fear among poll officials, teachers, watchers and candidates.

Two grenade attacks were also reported in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, according to the Sultan Kudarat police office.

Blasts occurred on Tuesday night. The next morning, police and military personnel also recovered a live hand grenade at the back of the Columbio Central Elementary School.

School attacked

In Banisilan, North Cotabato, counting at the municipal level was also temporarily suspended when unidentified men lobbed a hand grenade at the Banisilan Central Elementary School.

Ando said the witnesses told military personnel securing the canvassing sites that they saw a band of armed men quickly leaving the school grounds after the blast.

Ando said all these grenade attacks were aimed at disrupting the conduct of canvassing in various areas where the recently concluded election was hotly contested.

Soldiers with K-9 bomb-sniffing dogs are tightly guarding the headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division where municipal level counting are held. Provincial canvassing has yet to start.

On election day, two mortars exploded near the town hall of Matanog, Maguindanao, forcing poll officials to declare a failure of elections. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening

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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
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Dynasties have no room in remote Benguet town

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KIBUNGAN, Benguet—This town shows the way in eliminating political dynasties through a culture of sharing. And this has proved to be the secret behind the peaceful politics here ever since electoral democracy began in the country.

In this upland town of 16,000 Kankanaey folk, electoral positions are shared and rotated. One may be a well-loved mayor for his outstanding performance and the local electorate may maintain him for three terms.

But unlike elsewhere in the country, a three-term mayor here cannot endorse his wife or a close relative to run in the next election so that he can run again after the wife or relative's term. Such a case has not happened here thus far.

And if such a case happens, voters will definitely repudiate the attempt through the ballot. Why? The reason has deep cultural roots.

One cultural tenet here is "Lawa no bokodan di sigued (It is improper to monopolize opportunities)." Under the cultural tenets of propriety, even the opportunity to serve one's fellows through an elective position must be shared and rotated.

The only long-running mayor here was former Mayor Bruno Siadto. But he could not be faulted for having served for 20 years or so because he did so at a time when there were no elections under the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' martial law reign.

For his good performance, Albert Mayamnes was voted for three terms as mayor until 1998. Mayamnes made his town mates proud when he ran for Benguet provincial board member and won in 1998.

Prodded by some elders, Mayamnes sought to return as mayor in this year's elections. He lost. The reason may be mathematical because the recent mayoral race was a three-cornered fight.

But the other reasons are cultural in nature. The common comment here after the recent election results were out was "Ta idawat tako iman abes odom (Let us also give the opportunity to others)."

Newcomer

It was thus not surprising that the winner in the mayoral race was newcomer Murphy Paayas, a vegetable farmer-businessman from Madaymen Barangay. Paayas bested Mayamnes and incumbent Vice Mayor Benito Siadto.

Paayas' entry into the mayoral race came at the right time. Both of his rivals have served in local politics for some time. So under the culture of sharing, Paayas was the man for the town's top post.

Siadto was a two-term councilor before he became vice mayor in 1998. But as he said he might as well take a vacation first before making a political comeback after nine years in politics.

For Mayamnes, as many Kibungan folk would say after the election results were out, his townmates could have overwhelmingly voted for him had he sought reelection as Benguet provincial board member.

But as in sports or in beauty pageants, not every candidate wins. And as part also of Kibungan folk's culture of unity and reconciliation, every candidate, both winners and losers, came out, shook each other's hands and embraced each other after the official results were out.

Forgiveness

There were no hard feelings. During the proclamation of winners last May 15, each of the losing and winning candidates from the mayoral down to the municipal council positions sought forgiveness for whatever criticisms or verbal attacks they hurled at each other during the campaign.

The losers pledged to support the winners "for the good of the community." But the losers challenged the winners to do their best and fulfil their promises because as Siadto said, "we are just on vacation," implying that the newly elected officials must prove their mettle because voters can give another verdict in the next polls.

Also under the culture of sharing, Kibungan voters have found that it was time to elect a mayor from Barangay Madaymen because no mayor had ever come from the place.

Paayas therefore made history for the town as the first mayor to be elected from Barangay Madaymen.

Past mayors have come from Barangays Poblacion, Sagpat and Palina. Now with Madaymen included, it won't be surprising if Kibungan voters in the future will also vote someone for mayor from any of the three other barangays of Tacadang, Badeo and Lubo.

Kibungan may be a poor fifth class municipality, but it is definitely rich in other aspects such as its people's high sense of civility in politics.

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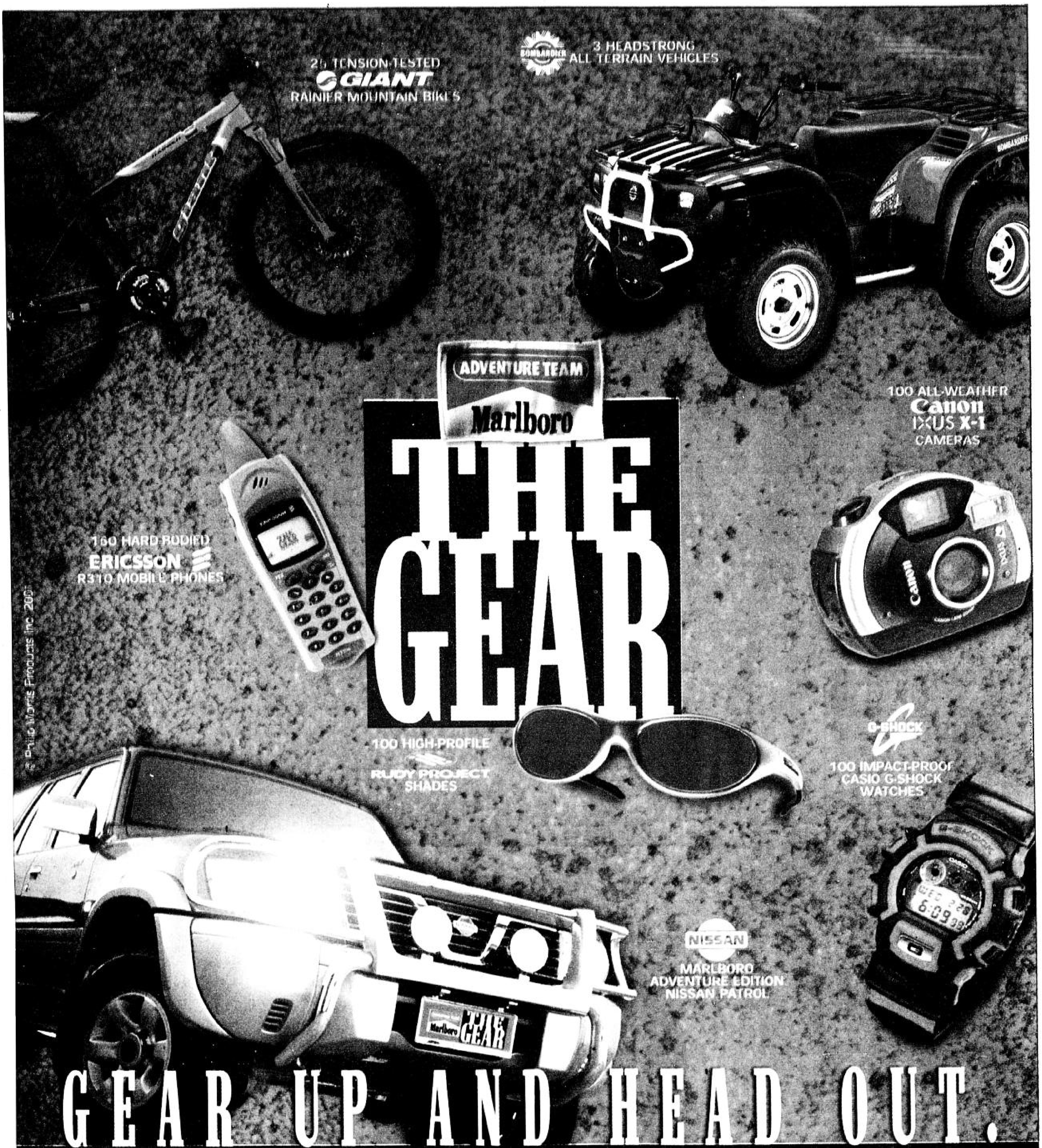

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3. To enter the draw, write down your name, address, age (as of May 14, 2001) and signature on the empty white panel of any variant of Marlboro King Size (Marlboro Red, Marlboro Lights, Marlboro Lights Menthol, Marlboro Red FTB and Marlboro Lights FTB).
4. Only genuine and original Marlboro King Size packs – locally produced by La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal – with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.
5. No photocopies will be allowed. All entry forms will become the property of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc.
6. Drop your entries in drop boxes at authorized retail outlets/drop centers or mail to: MAT "The Gear" Promotion. P.O. Box 1299, Makati City
7. All entries must be received not later than July 9, 2001. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entires.
8. The draw will be held on July 16, 2001 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. The following prizes will be drawn: (1) Special Edition Nissan Patrol (3) Bombardier ATV (25) Giant Mountain Bikes (100) Canon Ixus X-1 Cameras (100) Casio G-Shock watches (100) Rudy Project Shades (150) Ericsson R310 Mobile Phones
9. The names of the winners will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on July 31, 2001. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes.
10. Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication, announcement or notification of winners, whichever comes last, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.
11. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the notification telegram and provide two (2) valid documents of identification [birth certificate, driver's license, passport, SSS, NBI clearance].
12. In case the winner fails to secure valid documents of identification, the winner should present the following
    - 12.1 An affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity.
    - 12.2. Certification from the Barangay/Municipality/City official verifying that he/she is a resident of the barangay/municipality/city.
13. In cases where the winner, for acceptable reasons, cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization prepared and signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and two (2) valid Ids of the winner. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
14. An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
15. Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will not be liable to winners for any costs, expenses, or any liabilities arising out of the receipt or use of any of the prizes. Final Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
16. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will shoulder final withholding taxes on the prizes.
17. All decisions of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents are final and no correspondence will be entered into. The draw will be void where prohibited or restricted by law.
18. Employees of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc, their affiliates, distributors, dealers, suppliers, advertising and promotional agencies, and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are not eligible to participate in the promotion draw.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0215 Series of 2001

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Counting stopped as more fraud raps come in

By The PDI Visayas and Northern Luzon Bureaus

CRIES of fraud grew louder as more and more candidates tried to delay counting in the provinces and complained that they were cheated.

In Northern Samar, the canvassing of election returns was suspended at 11:30 p.m. Thursday pending investigation of a complaint filed by Lakas-NUCD candidates that there was massive cheating during a blackout Monday night that lasted eight to 12 hours.

Lawyer Andrew Dido, Northern Samar election officer and chair of the board of election inspectors, also acted on the request of the opposition Liberal Party to remove Ramon Basas as member of the board of canvassers because he is schools division superintendent in Leyte and not in Northern Samar.

Dido left for Manila yesterday to get instructions directly from election commissioners.

Jose Ong, Lakas-NUCD congressional candidate for second district, and sister-in-law reelectionist Gov. Madeleine Mendoza-Ong, filed a petition asking the Comelec to declare a failure of election in Northern Samar.

Ballot stuffing

The petition said "ballot stuffing," preparation of tampered, altered or falsified election returns and switching of election returns occurred during the blackout that hit many parts of the province.

It said the Lakas-NUCD candidates, including the petitioners, and the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates received "unbelievably" low votes after the blackout.

On the other hand, the petition said, the senatorial candidates of Puwersa ng Masa and candidates of the opposition Liberal Party "benefited (from) the massive fraud."

In Cebu, canvassing in Toledo City was suspended about 11 a.m. yesterday when the election returns were torn to pieces allegedly by the sister of a mayoral candidate shortly after at least four armed men stormed a session hall where the counting was taking place.

Supt. Agustin Lloveras, Toledo police chief, said he saw the sister of Ricardo Rafols (Promdi), whose name he could not recall, tear the election returns inside the office of the city council secretary.

Evidence

Inside the office, he added, were Rafols and some of his supporters. Lloveras said he later recovered the torn election returns, which would be used as evidence in the charges against the Rafols siblings and their supporters.

Lloveras said a female supporter of Rafols brought the envelope containing the election returns to Rafols' sister from the session hall at the height of the commotion caused by the armed men.

Lawyer Federico Sanchez, Toledo Comelec registrar, said the board of canvassers failed to secure the election returns when the armed men arrived and overpowered their security detail.

He said the canvassers and tabulators did not even notice that the election returns were taken as some of them, including Sanchez, were pushed to the ground.

The suspects ransacked the session hall for about five minutes before escaping. Sanchez said they were still conducting an inventory of how many election returns were missing.

Cheating charges

Rafols earlier accused the board of canvassers of engaging in "*dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving)" in favor of his rival, Daydee Espinosa-Zambo, daughter and running mate of third-term Toledo Mayor Aurelio Espinosa.

In Samar, canvassing in Hinabangan town was transferred yesterday to the provincial capitol in the capital Catbalogan town, three days after the counting was suspended due to a protest rally, said Comelec regional director Adolfo Ibañez.

The municipal election officer, Senona Calagos, went to Catbalogan on Wednesday shortly after declaring the canvassing suspended because of a rally staged by supporters of mayoral candidate Jaime Lobres (NPC) in front of the municipal hall.

The protesters demanded that the election returns from Hinabangan town be nullified because of alleged electoral fraud including vote-buying, tampering of results and ballot switching in favor of reelectionist Mayor Victor Tinay (Lakas-NUCD).

Tinay was reportedly leading by a wide margin with only five ballot boxes that had not been counted yet.

Hinabangan, about 40 kilometers south of Catbalogan, has 6,702 registered voters and 35 precincts.

Capiz woes

In Capiz, an opposition candidate for board member asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections for board members in the second district because his name did not appear in the list of candidates placed inside voting booths on election day.

Elueterio Martinez (NPC) told Capiz Comelec supervisor Margarita Oquendo in a letter that the omission "had deprived the voters of their right to freely and properly make their choices."

But Oquendo denied his petition for lack of sufficient ground. She said the omission was a "computer error" and that Martinez's name did not appear in only two lists in Mambusao town.

She said her office quickly corrected the error by issuing a memorandum to all election officers in the 10 towns of Capiz covering the second district to include Martinez in the lists where his name did not appear.

In Leyte, the canvassing in Tacloban City was suspended since Thursday night after two independent candidates questioned the qualification of acting city election officer Rochie Cerro to sit as chair of the board of canvassers.

Vice mayoral candidate Danilo Chua and Rodrigo Duellosa, who is running for councilor, said in a joint petition that Cerro should be disqualified from heading the board because he is not a lawyer.

Chua cited Sections 4 and 7 of the Comelec Resolution No. 3848 that requires the chair of the board of canvassers to be a lawyer.

Under the law, he said, the canvassing should be suspended if the composition of the board is being questioned.

A CRUCIAL stage in the elections, counting, is provided with the least facilities in a canvassing area in Lanao del Sur.

FROILAN GALLARDO

Unprecedented

In La Union, outgoing Gov. Justo Orros Jr. called as "unprecedented" vote-buying in the province.

In spite of this, he said the elections in La Union have been open and transparent and closely monitored.

In Ilocos Norte, reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas has conceded to returning Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. but not after accusing Ablan of massive vote-buying which allegedly resulted in his poor showing in the congressional race.

In Ilocos Sur, residents rallied in front of the Vigan City hall and the Commission on Elections office on Friday to denounce alleged election irregularities.

The ralliers carried placards with messages like "Teachers, be a model of your students," "Barangay P250" and "Vote Cheating is Cheating the Voice of God."

"God" refers to the National Movement for Free Elections which was manned by the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia.

Namfrel figures in the vice mayoral and council races were very different from the Comelec figures. Because of the discrepancies, two opposition candidates lost in the elections.

Denials

In Nueva Ecija, the winning candidate in the province's third district disputed claims of massive vote-buying allegedly committed by his supporters.

Lawyer Aurelio Umali, who was leading Edward Thomas Joson, eldest son of Gov. Tomas Joson III, by more than 10,000 votes in the congressional race in the third district, said he is ready to prove in court that he did not commit fraud.

Reports said lawyer-members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in the province were collating testimony of people who allegedly received money in exchange for their votes.

These people, reports said, surrendered to authorities the money given them and were willing to testify in court.

Umali, a former deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, said he had no formidable party or extensive machinery to run his campaign.

He said no barangay captain in the district, composed of Cabanatuan and Palayan cities and the towns of Bongabon, Gabaldon, General Natividad, Laur and Sta. Rosa, supported him.

Special polls

The special elections in Tineg town in Abra will push through today (Saturday), despite the attack Thursday on the town's vice mayor that killed one of his aides, Comelec officials said.

Lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec director for the Cordillera, said voting will start at 7 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

He said he had tightened security in other parts of Abra, the only Cordillera province under Comelec control.

Velasco personally supervised the distribution of Comelec election materials to Tineg on Wednesday, using a police helicopter, after a Comelec team failed to arrive in the town on Monday because of bad roads and the swollen Abra River.

Days before the elections, at least three election protests, two in Tubao town and one in Sto. Tomas town, were filed by local candidates against supporters of a certain political party for alleged vote-buying.

But provincial election officer Andrew Barcena said his office is too loaded with work and understaffed to resolve the cases within the prescribed time of 10 days.

Participants in the Vigan rally also carried five-gallon water jugs filled with one peso coins to start a fund drive for the recount bid of three of their candidates.

Conflicting tallies

In the Namfrel tally, businessman George Villanueva of the PDP-Laban barely made it to the council as the 10th member with votes of 7,407. But in the Comelec tally, he was eased out in the 11th spot with Restituto Abalos of Lakas-Bileg, who was 11th in the Namfrel tally, making it to the eighth spot.

Villanueva got 7,588 votes while Abalos, who received 7,083 votes in the Namfrel tally, got 8,374. Villanueva and Dr. Alfredo Figuerres Jr. would have been the only opposition candidates to make it to the Vigan city council.

Even the Lakas-Bileg acknowledged in its own tally that Villanueva should have made it to the 10th spot. But apparently the Comelec, which did the counting at 3 a.m. Thursday, had the final say and immediately proclaimed the winners after the counting ended.

"I went to the bathroom and Villanueva was leading but when I came back, he already lost," a PDP-Laban watcher said.

Canvassing went on a standstill in several towns and cities in Central Luzon because of wrangling by lawyers of rival candidates.

Delayed canvassing

Since Thursday, canvassing was halted in the towns of San Isidro, Sta. Rosa, Gapan and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija; Angat and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan; and Angeles City in Pampanga. Lawyers of losing political bets questioned, among other things, the composition of the board of election inspectors, according to regional Comelec supervisor Nicolas Fontelera. *Cynthia Borgueta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Vicente Labro, Gerry Pagharion, Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Gia Damaso-Dumo, Cristina Arzadon, Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Sa lahat ng mga nakisalamuha sa amin sa daan, sa mga kapatagan at kabundukan,
mga kapatid at kapanalig na nagbukas ng puso, diwa at kamalayan,
mga indibidwal, upisina, organisasyon at komunidad na nagbahagi ng inumin
at pagkain, banig at higaan, bakuran at tahanan,
mga nag-alay ng tula, awit, sayaw, kasaysayan, panalangin at ritwal
mga sumabay sa pagpadyak at paglalakbay,
mga nakipagpalitan ng kuro-kuro at kaalaman,
nagbahagi ng mga pangarap, adhikain at karanasan,

mula Quezon City-Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga (San Fernando), Bataan, Zambales (Subic, Botolan—Biyaho Mambug), Pangasinan (Lingayen), La Union (Agoo), Benguet (Baguio City), Mt. Province (Abatan, Bontoc), Ifugao (Banaue), Nueva Vizcaya (Bayombong, Aritao), Nueva Ecija (Cabanatuan), Rizal (Antipolo), Quezon (Lucena City, Tagkawayan), Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay (Legazpi City), Sorsogon (Matnog), Samar (San Isidro, Calbayog City, Catbalogan), Leyte (Tacloban City, Palo, Liloan), Surigao, Agusan del Norte (Butuan City), Misamis Oriental (Balingasag-Samay), Bukidnon (Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Kitaotao—Sinuda), Davao del Norte, Davao City, North Cotabato (Kidapawan City, Carmen—Aroman, Macatactac),

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Protests vs fraud heighten tension in Palawan counting

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Tension was high at the provincial capitol yesterday after about 500 supporters of city Mayor Edward Hagedorn staged a rally in front of the canvassing site for the gubernatorial race to protest alleged irregularities in the just-concluded elections.

The protesters, however, left after Hagedorn's son Clink asked them to just wait for the legal process to take its course. But they vowed to return if justice is not served on Hagedorn.

The protesters, organized by Hagedorn candidates for the city council, complained of the failure of Hagedorn's supporters to vote as their names were missing in the voter's list, alleged massive vote-buying and terrorism.

Others claimed to have come independently to show support for Hagedorn.

As a result of the tension, city canvassers said they would want to transfer the canvassing of the votes to the military's Western Command headquarters.

On Thursday morning, Hagedorn, accompanied by his lawyers and supporters, sought to stop the canvassing of the city election returns, alleging irregularities in the elections.

It was also reported that Hagedorn even threatened bloodshed if the canvassing was not stopped. He, however, denied doing this.

The canvassing was temporarily stopped but resumed yesterday morning.

Willy Biolena, one of Hagedorn's supporters, said many supporters of Hagedorn failed to vote in all parts of the city due to the deletion of their names in the voter's list.

He also said that many voters are already giving their affidavits on the alleged vote-buying in the city.

A village head said it was the dirtiest politics he had seen.

He said the incidents of election fraud in the city were a product of a specialist in dirty politics.

He said that in previous elections, people were just usually given cigarettes and bottles of gin as goodwill gestures by the candidates but this election brought cash and even intimidation.

The provincial capitol had closed all its doors except for one where all individuals pass through.

Visitors in the capitol have to fall in line to get inside.

Comelec city officials had threatened to transfer the venue of the canvassing if supporters of Hagedorn continued to mass up in front of the canvassing site.

Comelec official Arsenio Guste denied the motion of Hagedorn's lawyers to stop the canvassing due to irregularities.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza has also ordered the investigation of Supt. Feliciano Dimayuga who was reported to be in Hagedorn's company in the commotion during the city canvassing yesterday.

Dimayuga was the former city chief of police. *Ruelle Albert Castro and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Who's winning, who's losing in the provinces

(Editor's Note: As much as the INQUIRER would want to come out with the complete results of the elections in the provinces, space constraints prevent it from doing so. The INQUIRER would publish results as they are available and after checking them with local Namfrel affiliates)

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION	
(Namfrel: As of 4 p.m., May 18)	
BENGUET	
(Comelec: As of 4 p.m.)	
Lone District	
Ronald Cosalan (Lakas-NUCD)	48,991
Samuel Dangwa (Reporma-LM)	56,667
Governor	
Raul Molintas (NPC)	56,676
Robert Tinda-an (Lakas-NUCD)	50,614
BAGUIO CITY	
(Namfrel: 500 precincts)	
Lone District:	
Mauricio Domogan (Lakas)	38,912
Pablito Sanidad (PDP-Lakas)	21,104
CAGAYAN VALLEY	
CAGAYAN	
Governor	
(Comelec: As of 2 p.m. May 18)	
Edgar Lara	116,351
Florencio Vargas	104,115
ILOCOS REGION	
ILOCOS NORTE	
District 1	
(Namfrel: As of 3 p.m. May 18)	
Rodolfo Fariñas (NPC)	14,855
Roque Ablan Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)	23,461
District 2	
Namfrel: 442 precincts)	
Imee Marcos (KBL)	71,941
Governor	
(Namfrel: 266 precincts)	
Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (KBL)	124,345
ILOCOS SUR	
Comelec: Complete, 678 precincts)	
District 1	
Salacnib Baterina (Lakas-NUCD)	48,293
Manano Tajon (Lakas-NUCD)	39,858
District 2	
Eric Singson (LP)	75,781
Virgilio Valle (Lakas-NUCD)	53,562
PANGASINAN	
(Comelec: As of 3 p.m., May 18)	
District 1	
(Comelec: 9 towns)	
Francisco Baraan (Lakas-NUCD)	21,803
Arthur Celeste (Ind.)	40,896
District 2	
(Comelec: 6 of 8 towns)	
Ernesto Castañeda (Lakas-NUCD)	20.924
Amado Espino Jr.(Lakas-NUCD)	29.924
Von Mark Mendoza (Aksyon)	28,459
District 3	
(Comelec: 1 of 5 towns)	
Generoso, Tulagan	15,223
Angel Baniqued (Lakas)	5,068
District 4	
(omelec: complete)	
Jose de Venecia (Lakas)	57,763
Alfredo Quinto (NPC)	4,707
District 5	
(Comelec: 7 of 8 towns, 1 city)	
Marcos Cojuangco (NPC)	96,762
Raul Lambino (PDP-Laban)	17,627
District 6	
(Comelec: 9 of 10 towns)	
Conrado Estrella III (NPC)	58,386
Ranjit Shahani (Lakas-NUCD)	46,875
Governor	
(Comelec: 34 towns, 2 cities)	
Victor Agbayani (Lakas-NUCD)	436,692
Teodoro Cruz (LDP)	118,463
CENTRAL LUZON	
TARLAC	
(Namfrel: 548 precincts)	
District 1	
Gilberto Teodoro Jr. (NPC)	53,615
Amando Lambino(KAMPI)	6,058
District 2	
Benigno Aquino III (LP)	68,287
Alexander Tolentino(LDP)	4,964
District 3	
Jesli Lapus (NPC)	21,326
Alfredo Avena (Lakas)	10,436
Governor	
Jose Yap (NPC)	87,172
Herminio Aquino (Lakas)	51,853
Gelacio Manalang (LDP)	78,139
NUEVA ECIJA	
(Comelec: 4 towns)	
District 1	
Joselina Joson	30,570
Cecilia Diaz	10,884
District 2	
(Radio dwNE: As of May 18)	
Eleuterio Violago	32,098
Simeon Garcia Jr.	20,091
District 3	
(LP: As of May 18)	
Governor	
Tomas Joson III	53,135
Aurelio Umali	63,607
BULACAN	
(Comelec: As of 4 p.m., May 18)	
District 1	
(Comelec: 8 of 24 towns)	
Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado (Lakas)	16,123
Raul Ople (LDP)	3,593
District 2	
(Comelec: 5 of 7 towns)	
Ramon Posadas (Lakas)	15,709
Wilfrido Villarama (Aksyon)	48,940
District 3	
(Comelec: 1 of 6 towns)	
Lorna Silverio (Lakas)	2,391
Bodjie Cabochan (Lakas)	1,209
District 4	
(Comelec: 1 of 5 towns)	
Evangelina Sarmiento (Lakas)	2,504
Reylina Nicolas (Lakas)	11,500
Governor	
(Comelec: 8 of 24 towns)	
Josefina de la Cruz (Lakas)	138,877
Luz Parungao-Viado (PMP)	5,531
BICOL	
(Namfrel: As of 12 noon, May 18)	
CAMARINES SUR	
District 1	
Andaya, Rolando Jr. G. (Lakas)	67,165
Genova, Roberto U.(LDP)	28,736
District 2	
Roco, Sulpicio Jr. S. (Aksyon)	43,882
Villafuerte, Mariano Jose F. (LDP)	31,701
District 3	
Fuentebella, Felix William B. (NPC)	30,582
Pilapil, Eduardo P. (LDP)	19,575
District 4	
Alfelor, Felix (Lakas-NUCD)	27,552
Fortuno, Salvio B. (LDP)	21,106
Governor	
Villafuerte, Luis R. (LDP)	100,346
Villamayor, Nora C. (Lakas-NUCD)	71,784
MASBATE	
District 1	
Espinosa, Vida (NPC)	19,722
Ejercito, Jennifer (PMP)	14,417
District 2	
Espinosa, Emilio Jr. (INA-NPC)	26,555
Estrella, Raul (Reporma)	14,053
District 3	
Seachon, Fausto Jr. (NPC-INA)	31,120
Kho Elisa (Reporma)	23,019
Governor	
Danao, Orlando (Lakas)	75,149
Kho, Antonio (Reporma)	91,659
ALBAY	
District 1	
Karie, Ana Marie T. (Aksyon)	28,591
Lagman-Luistro, Krisel B. (Lakas)	67,930
District 2	
Imperial, Carlos D. R. (NPC-INA)	52,335
Roces, Imelda C. (Lakas-NUCD)	36,765
District 3	
Salceda, Jose Ma. S. (Lakas-NUCD)	86,324
Governor	
Bichara, Al Francis (Lakas-NUCD)	187,352
Salalima, Romeo R. (Kampi)	113,244
MARINDUQUE	
Lone district	
Reyes, Edmundo Jr.(Lakas-NUCD)	36,875
Red, Jovito W. (PDP-Laban)	3,467
Governor	
Reyes, Carmencita (Lakas)	27,398
Carrion, Bong (Ind.)	17,288
SOUTHERN TAGALOG	
CAVITE	
Governor	
Maliksi, Erineo S. (PM)	370,004
Revilla, Ramon Jr. B. (Lakas)	271,245
LAGUNA	
(Namfrel: 957 of 5,114 precincts)	
District 1	
Anas, Arturo A. (Lakas-NUCD)	12,490
Joaquin, Uliran T. (NPC)	91,249
District 2	
Chipeco, Joaquin Jr. M. (Kampi)	104,841
Tingzon, Rodolfo R. (Lakas-NUCD)	39,367
District 3	
Amante, Vicente B. (Lakas-NUCD)	8,625
Bueser, Danton Q. (LP)	18,757
District 4	
San Luis, Rodolfo S. (LDP)	16,102
Governor	
(Comelec: As of 12 noon, May 18)	
Lina, Alberto D. (Kampi)	127,290
Lazaro, Teresita S. (PMP)	193,945
ORIENTAL MINDORO	
(Namfrel: 81 precincts)	
District 1	
Leviste, Charity P. (Lakas-NUCD)	61,728
Manzo, Dante A.	41,482
District 2	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas-NUCD)	26,603
Punzalan, Jesus M. (Lakas NUCD)	28,643
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (LP)	30,317
Governor	
(Comelec: final, unofficial)	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr. L. (Lakas)	113,406
Valencia, Chalie P. (LP)	92,585
PALAWAN	
Governor	
Reyes, Joel (Lakas)	105,838
Hagedorn, Edward (NPC)	73,318
VISAYAS	
WESTERN VISAYAS	
AKLAN *(Final)*	
Congress (Lone District)	
Gabrielle Calizo (LDP)	59,529
Leovigildo Mationg	44,271
Governor	
Florencio Miraflores (LDP)	78,905
Sergio Regodon (Lakas)	34,823
ANTIQUE (Final)	
Congress (Lone District)	
Exequiel Javier (Lakas)	73,936
Jovito Plameras (NPC)	61,473
Governor	
Sally Perez-Zaldevar (LDP-Lakas)	66,066
Damian Marfil (Reporma)	55,579
Arturo Pacificador (KBL)	21,014
CAPIZ	
(Comelec: 768 of 988 precincts, 77%)	
District 1	
Rodrigues Dadivas (LP)	53,224
Esteban Contreras (Lakas)	30,814
District 2 (Final)	
Vicente Andaya III (Lakas-LDP)	29,228
Fredenil Castrol (LP)	68,052
Governor	
(Comelec: 1,613 of 1,843 precincts, 87%)	
Vicente Bermejo (LP)	132,747
Vicente Andaya Jr. (NPC)	79,389
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	
Congress	
(Comelec: 2,418 of 6,674 precincts, 36%)	
District 1	
Julio Ledesma IV (UNA)	8,050
Salvador Rigor (ATUN)	2,309
District 2	
Richard Lacson (Lakas-PPC)	5.551
Alfredo Marañon (NPC-UNA)	5,893
District 4	
Carlos Cojuanco (UNA)	34,980
Juancho Aguirre (ATUN)	27,996
District 6	
Genaro Alvarez (NPC)	52,790
Alexander Lacson (ATUN)	35,939
Governor	
(Comelec: 3 of 19 towns, 1 of 13 cities)	
Joseph Marañon (UNA)	173,789
Romeo Gamboa (ATUN-LAKAS)	119,832
BACOLOD	
Congress	
(Comelec: 988 of 1,209 precincts, 81%)	
Monico Fuentebella (Lakas-PPC)	40,884
John Orola (NPC-UNA)	38,162
ILOILO	
(Comelec: 2 of 7 towns)	
District 1	
Oscar Garin (NPC)	18,045
Jaime Torres (Lakas)	7,106
(Comelec: 2 of 8 towns)	
District 2	
Agusto Syjuco (LDP)	14,702
Rodolfo Cabado (Lakas NUCD)	5,776
(Comelec: 2 of 9 towns)	
District 3	
Arthur Defensor (Lakas)	8,258
Licurgo Tirador (LDP)	1,468
(Comelec: 3 of 8 towns)	
District 4	
Ferjinel Biron (LDP)	17,246
Narciso Monfort (Lakas)	14,246
(Comelec: 5 of 11 towns)	
District 5	
Rolex Sulpicio (LDP)	27,377
Antonio Teduco (Lakas)	8,310
Governor	
(Comelec: 14 of 42 towns, 1 city)	
Niel Tupas (LDP)	80,052
Demy Sonza (Lakas)	41,698
ILOILO CITY	
(Namfrel: 930 of 1,101 precincts, 84.47%)	
Congress (Lone District)	
Raul Gonzalez (Lakas)	81,285
Pascual Espinosa Jr. (Ind.)	6,579
GUIMARAS	
(Comelec: 249 of 364 precincts, 68.4%)	
Lone District	
Edgar Espinosa (Lakas)	14,863
Vicente de Asis (LDP)	12,150
Governor	
Rahman Nava (LDP)	24,207
Gerry Yucon (Lakas)	8,887
CENTRAL VISAYAS	
CEBU	
(Namfrel: 5,667 of 9,396 precincts, 60.01%)	
District 1	
Jose Gullas (Alayon)	45,099
Napoleon Rama Jr. (Promdi)	31,090
District 2	
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon)	12,051
Crisologo Abines (Promdi)	10,770
District 3	
Antonio Yapha Jr. (Alayon)	43,321
Jose Soberano III (Promdi)	30,189
District 4	
Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi)	59,494
Doroteo Salazar (Alayon)	22,722
District 5	
Joseph Felix Durano (Alayon)	51,000
District 6	
Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (Alayon)	56,803
Efren Herrera (Promdi)	43,950
Governor	
(Namfrel: 4,032 of 7,338 precincts or 54.83%)	
Pablo Garcia (Promdi)	291,637
Fernando Celeste (Alayon)	248,197
CEBU CITY	
Congress North District	
Raul Del Mar (Promdi-PPC)	1,790
Florencio Villarin (Ind.)	285
South District	
Antonio Cuenco (Promdi)	5,719
Aristotle Batuhan (Alayon)	5,364
NEGROS ORIENTAL	
(Comelec: 2,012 of 2,765 precincts or 72%)	
District 1	
Jacinto Paras (Lakas-PPC)	46,624
Reynaldo Tuanda (NPC)	21,426
District 2	
Emilio Macias (NPC)	24,501
Miguel Romero (Lakas-LDP)	16,658
District 3 (Final)	
Herminio Teves (Lakas-PPC)	108,762
Governor (Final)	
George Arnaiz (NPC)	132,520
Edgar Teves (Lakas-PPC)	108,762
SIQUIJOR	
Congress (Final)	
Orlando Fua, Jr. (Lakas NUCD)	24,596
Ben Aquino (NPC)	9,485
Governor	
Amado Calunod (PMP)	15,214
Cyrus Olpoc (Lakas/PPC)	19,510
BOHOL	
(Namfrel:2,884 of 3,041 precincts or 93.45 %)	
District 1	
Edgar Chatto (PDP)	62,188
Jacinto Agana (Lakas)	5,785
District 2	
Roberto Cajes (Lakas)	37,524
Jose Jumamoy (PDP)	35,069
Distric 3	
Eladio Jala (PDP)	57,317
Isidro Zarraga (Kampi)	36,410
Governor	
Erico Aumentado (Lakas-Promdi)	181,747
Rene Relampagos (PDP-Laban)	150,528
EASTERN VISAYAS	
LEYTE	
(Comelec: 2 of 7 towns, 1 city)	
District 1	
Ted Failon Ted (Ind.)	6,835
Alfred Romualdez (NPC-KBL)	4,734
District 2	
(Comelec: 6 of 14 towns)	
Trinidad Apostol(Lakas-NUCD)	23,086
Carlos Romualdez (NPC)	11,952
District 3	
(Comelec: 1 of 5 towns)	
Edward Veloso (NPC-KBL)	7,986
Rally Salazar (NPC)	3,852
District 4	
(Comelec: 3 of 6 towns, 1 city)	
Eufrocino Codilla Sr.	19,738
Victoria Larrazabal-Locsin	15,051
District 5	
(Comelec: 1 of 9 towns)	
Eriberto Veloso Loreto (LDP)	6,553
Carmen Loreto Cari (Lakas NUCD)	5,764
Governor	
(Comelec: 8 of 41 towns, 1 city)	
Remedios Loreto-Petilla (Lakas)	41,941
Catalina Loreto-GO (LDP)	21,685
EASTERN SAMAR	
(Comelec: 17 of 23 towns or 74%)	
Congress (Lone District)	
Marcelino Libanan (NPC)	35,000
Emiliana Villacarillo (Lakas)	24,175
Governor	
Jose Ramirez (Lakas)	25,352
Clotilde Salazar (NPC)	23,589
Ruperto Ambil (LDP)	21,763
NORTHERN SAMAR	
Congress	
(Namfrel: 436 of 1,336 precincts)	
District 1	
Harina Abayon (LP)	38,875
Teodoro Jumamil (Lakas)	22,217
District 2	
Romualdo Vicencio(Lakas)	19,950
Jose Ong (Lakas-Ind.)	13,318
Governor	
Raul Daza (LP)	65,128
Madeleine Ong (Lakas)	40,220
SOUTHERN LEYTE	
(Comelec: 9 of 18 towns and 1 city)	
Congress	
Anecito Saludo (Lakas)	65,153
Rebert Castañares (NPC)	56,604
Governor	
Rosette Lerias (NPC)	67,047
Roger Mercado (Lakas)	65,522
MINDANAO	
AGUSAN DEL SUR	
(Comelec: Only one town left, Tranto)	
Lone District	
Plaza, Rodolfo (LDP)	76,269
Paredes, Celerino Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)	55,269
Governor	
Plaza, Adolph Edward Plaza (LDP)	90,014
Quijada, Reynaldo (Lakas-NUCD)	50,141
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	
(Namfrel: As of May 18)	
Lone district	
Jaraula, Constantino (PnM)	54,591
Damasing, Erasmo (Lakas)	39,223
CAMIGUIN	
(Comelec: As of May 18)	
Lone District	
Romualdo, Pedro J. (NPC)	23,189
Adaza, Homobono I. (NP/PPC)	13,804

One-of-a-kind leaflet lists mayor's donations, expenses

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBLAY, Benguet—Believe it or not but the elected mayor here only had one kind of leaflet distributed during the campaign.

And reelectionist Mayor Willy Velasco was forced to print one because he was criticized for being selfish to his constituents.

At one time during the campaign, he was accused of donating a measly P20 to a worthy cause of the community. But even the leaflet caused Velasco and his family sleepless nights.

The leaflet drew a lot of flak from his political opponents and some voters here because of the way it was presented—it listed all his personal donations and contributions from July 1998 to April 2001, his first term as mayor.

Some voters said the leaflet implied that he was asking the people and the recipients of his donations to pay him back with votes.

Bombo Radyo openly hit Velasco on air during the last week of the campaign period while the backlash of the leaflet as a way of demanding payment spread like wildfire among voters here.

The four-page leaflet listed Velasco's donations to this town's eight villages and his assistance to several persons and groups totaling P508,113.

What shocked observers here was that the list contained wedding gifts, death donations, church contributions and financial assistance to dental and medical missions.

Examples of the list: P6,000—assistance to ordination of priest; P2,250—15 pieces monoblock chairs; P2,000—assistance to fire victims; P6,400—free lunch to women's group; P1,000—souvenir program; P1,100—five pieces of firewood for the Balangabang Elementary School; P14,275—Christmas cards; P46,125—death assistance; P58,255—weddings and many more.

Many voters disliked the campaign leaflet because, they said, it was allegedly Velasco's way of seeking political reimbursement.

Velasco said he was forced to print 5,000 copies of the leaflet and had these distributed on May 7 to clear his name.

"Just like in 1998, I did not print any leaflet but I had to do it this time to show to the people that I had been sensitive to their needs and that I had tried to help them in any way I could," Velasco told the INQUIRER.

"I just listed the assistance I had given to dispel the notion that I had refused to give donations in the past and I did not intend to make it appear I was asking for payment."

Namfrel results showed that Velasco, a Lakas-NUCD-PPC bet, garnered 3,039 votes to defeat Daniel Pontino of the National People's Coalition who got 2,441 votes.

This town has 6,678 registered voters in 39 precincts.

"I feel vindicated by the results of the election," Velasco said while waiting for his official proclamation.

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4pat na sangkap pinagsama sa 7sa para makatulong sa circulation ng dugo.

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AT LEADING DRUG STORES IN METRO MANILA

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

2 deaths, 2 women and politics

DAISY Sibya. A banker who had to add to her concerns the welfare and economy of her town.
ARNOLD ALMACEN

BY ALEX PAL *(in Dumaguete City)*
MA. DIOSA LABISTE *(in Iloilo City)*

JUDITH Cardenas is a homemaker in Negros Oriental. Daisy Sibya is a banker in Iloilo. They don't know each other. Their paths had never crossed. But in the last two weeks, fate welded their separate lives.

Judith and Daisy, both in their 40s, became widows in the two most violent election-related incidents in the Visayas. They were thrust into the political limelight even before they could grieve over the loss of their husbands.

Today, both are mayors—Judith in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental and Daisy in San Joaquin, Iloilo.

Judith, 49, a nutrition graduate, took over the mayoral candidacy of her husband, Jose, who was killed along with his sister and four supporters in an ambush in a mountain village of Canlaon on April 27. The New People's Army owned up to the killings, saying it was meant to punish Jose for committing "grave abuses" against the masses.

Daisy, 48, replaced her husband Jesus who was shot dead in front of his headquarters early morning of May 11 allegedly by his closest rival, reelectionist Mayor Sebastian Serag.

New life

Judith's new life will now be a far cry from her routine of baking cakes and pastries and taking care of her four children—Ian Jasper, 26, Gemma, 23, Basco, 22, and Marvin, 19.

For Judith, her victory in the elections was the answer to her wish for Canlaon voters to send a "*pabaon* (farewell gift)" to her husband by ensuring her victory in the elections.

The result of the election exceeded her wish. The Lakas-NUCD slate of her husband posted a landslide victory, snaring all but one of the 10 seats in the city council. The last seat for councilor was won by an independent.

Judith obtained 9,598 votes to beat rival Julius Amador (NPC), who obtained 4,529 votes, in the official and final count by the city canvassing board.

Her vice mayoral candidate Jimmy Clerigo, who was one of those injured in the ambush, obtained 10,334 votes to beat former mayor Isidoro Bautista Jr.'s 3,681 votes.

Judith, along with Clerigo and the 10 winning councilors, were proclaimed winners at 4 p.m. Wednesday by the municipal election office.

'Convinced by tears'

"The voters were convinced by the tears," said Amador, who has accepted the election results as "the voice of the people."

Amador said even his leaders were convinced by the "sad stories" generated by the Cardenas camp, who asked the people of Canlaon to "contribute one vote each as *pabaon* for Ondo (Jose)."

Elected councilor of Canlaon were Siegfredo Cardenas, who substituted for his slain sister Jessica, Edgar Estampador, Eric Suganob, Alvin Avila, Mamerto Bermil, Hernani Blanco, Evangelina Marquez, Clementino Llanes, Henry Mayagma and Diego Santiago.

Santiago, who ran as an independent, is the only candidate who is not with the Lakas-NUCD.

Filipinos, Amador said, are sentimental by nature. "We have a lot of similar examples throughout the country whereby candidates win out of sympathy votes."

In his death, Jose Cardenas did what he was not able to do while he was alive—win in precincts in the city proper.

"Never in the history of Canlaon did Ondo win in the city and I had expected to win by over 2,500 votes. But now that he is dead, I was defeated by over 600 votes (in the city precincts)," Amador said.

Jose had also admitted this weakness in a previous interview with the INQUIRER. He had then said that he was relying on votes from outside the city to bring him to victory.

Sympathy votes

Dr. Siegfredo Cardenas, who obtained 8,953 votes to become the No. 1 councilor, admitted the importance of the sympathy votes.

"But I made it clear to the voters that it was I and not my late sister Jessica who was running for the council," Siegfredo said.

Daisy also has a wish: "I hope my victory brings peace to this town," she said after she declared winner in the mayoral race by Jay Fortunado, the acting Comelec officer of San Joaquin.

Daisy, 48, was proclaimed winner on Thursday at the municipal hall, located just a stone's throw from where her husband's remains lie at the parish chancery.

There were no fireworks and bands playing to celebrate her victory, except a burst of applause after the ceremony. Rather than linger around to greet her well-wishers, Daisy immediately went back to the chapel where her husband's remains lie.

Instead of walking, she took a car, allegedly for security reasons.

Alert

Earlier, the police were on alert around the municipal hall after the Sibya camp reportedly received death threats to derail Daisy's proclamation. The ceremony, however, proceeded smoothly.

Daisy got 10,622 votes, winning by over 2,000 votes against Serag's 8,528 votes.

Serag (NPC) is now facing charges of murder and frustrated murder for the killing of Jesus and the wounding of three of his supporters in the dawn shooting at the Reporma party headquarters in the town.

Serag surrendered to authorities on the same day but is now confined at the Iloilo Doctors Hospital allegedly for treatment of an undisclosed disease. He is the brother of Rep. Ninfa Garin, whose husband, Oscar Garin, is a winning candidate in the first congressional district of Iloilo of the NPC.

Garin's son Richard was reelected mayor of Guimbal town while his wife, Jeanette, is winning in her reelection bid as board member of the first district of Iloilo.

Ease tension

Daisy expressed hope that her hard-won victory would ease tension in the town gripped by fear since her husband died.

JUDITH Cardenas. The death of her husband yanked her out of her household and family-rearing chores and thrust her into the not-so-orderly world of politics.
COURTESY OF CARDENAS FAMILY

Daisy, branch manager of the Philippine Veteran's Bank in Iloilo, at first begged off from taking over her husband's place, thinking of the future of her two sons, Hans Luis, 11, and Jesus Manuel III, 20.

But her older son convinced her to run. "If you will not run, Papa's death will be useless. We will just bury him and go home," Jesus Manuel told his mother.

"San Joaquin can start rebuilding itself. The town has suffered much during the Serag administration," she said.

Jesus reportedly earned the ire of Serag when he accused him of using the town's ambulance and a luxurious speedboat, intended for sea patrol, for his private use. Serag was also accused of being selective in helping the town's needy.

Daisy said she would pursue a dialogue with her constituents in her third class municipality on what type of projects would best suit them. "Governance should never be (from) top (to bottom) but in touch with people."

Her experience as a bank manager will help her in dealing with people and the town's finances, Daisy said.

But for Daisy, peace comes with justice. She vowed to pursue charges against those who killed her husband to "send a message that violence and terror" have no place in the town.

Already, a number of those who witnessed the dawn shooting of Jesus are leaving the town for fear of their lives.

One of them, Vilma, 49, whose 21-year-old son was also hit in the left leg during the shooting of Jesus, said she had sleepless nights thinking of her and her son's safety.

"If they kill a peaceful man like (Jesus), they might also come for me," she said.

An addiction called politics

BY THE PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

"POLITICS gets in your blood. Once you have a taste of it, it never lets you go."

The late Senate President and Supreme Court Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan said this in 1992, on the eve of his announcement to leave the Supreme Court a year ahead of his retirement so that he could return to politics.

(Fernan was then convinced to leave the Supreme Court to run for president but he ended up the running mate of then Speaker Ramon Mitra. They lost. In 1995, Fernan won in the senatorial race and became the Senate President. He died in July 1999).

Fernan's words came to mind as results of the elections showed that a number of former or outgoing district representatives are winning in their bid for local positions. There are also three-term mayors winning as vice mayors and former mayors or governors leading in congressional races.

The election law provides that a candidate who has won three consecutive 3-year-terms can no longer run for the same elective office. But politics is clearly in their blood. Being mayor, governor or congressman for nine years is not enough. Thus, those who are barred by law to run for the same position chose to run for higher offices or slide down to local posts to ensure they remain in power.

In Cebu, for example, at least two congressmen who have made names in national politics are back in their own bailiwicks—as mayors.

Former House Deputy Speaker Eduardo Gullas was just proclaimed mayor of Talisay City, to become the first city mayor of what was a southern Cebu town just three months ago.

Former Rep. Ramon "Nito" Durano III of Cebu's fifth district has also been proclaimed mayor of Danao City, the seat of power of the Durano clan. He won against his own nephew, Ramon "Monching" Durano IV.

Gullas and Durano are among the 14 mayoral candidates in Cebu who were already proclaimed winners by the Commission on Elections. The province has 47 towns and two cities.

Ten of 14 mayoral winners in Cebu belong to Alayon, a local party identified with the Puwersa ng Masa and backed by Sen. John Osmeña. The rest are with the Promdi, a party member of the People Power Coalition led by former Cebu Gov. Emilio Osmeña, John's estranged brother.

Another former congressman, Carmelo Locsin of the fourth district of Leyte, is now leading in the mayoral race of Ormoc City.

As of noon yesterday, the Namfrel-Ormoc tally of 83 percent of the city's 557 precincts showed Locsin was leading with 29,539 votes over his closest contender, Winnie Codilla, who got 27,847 votes.

But while Winnie is trailing in the mayoral race, his father, third-term Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr., is leading in the congressional race against reelectionist Rep. Victoria Locsin, Carmelo's wife, based on the Namfrel count in Ormoc City.

Still another former congressman, Niel Tupas of Iloilo's 5th district, is now leading in the Iloilo gubernatorial race against incumbent Vice Gov. Demy Sonza.

In Antique, outgoing three-term Gov. Exequiel Javier (Lakas-NUCD) won the province's lone district congressional seat against reelectionist Rep. Jovito Plameras (NPC). He was to be proclaimed winner by the Comelec at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Among the incumbent mayors who won as vice mayors are Pamphil Frasco (Liloan, Cebu), Severino Escobedo Jr. (Carcar, Cebu), Thadeus Durano (Sogod, Cebu), Fe Montaño (San Jose, Negros Oriental), Ernesto Reyes (Guihulngan, Negros Oriental) and Severo Palanca (Victorias City, Negros Occidental).

These "victories" merely affirmed that the efforts of the framers of the 1986 Constitution to make it difficult for political dynasties to continue to flourish in the country have failed.

Last Monday's elections showed that new political dynasties are emerging even as the old dynasties get a beating or continue to reign.

In some areas, the hold of a political clan is so well entrenched that they practically hold all the key positions.

In Cebu's fifth district, Ramon III's victory as mayor of Danao City is coupled with the no-contest victory of his son, Joseph, who ran unopposed in his reelection bid for the congressional seat of the district.

Thadeus, the younger brother of Ramon III, did not only celebrate his victory as the new vice mayor of Sogod town but also that of his daughter, Liza Marie Durano-Quiniahan, who won as mayor of the town.

So come June, Thadeus will turn over the helm of Sogod to his daughter while staying in office as her second-in-command.

In Negros Occidental, Rep. Genaro Alvarez (NPC-UNA) won his third-term in the sixth congressional district of the province.

But he was not the only victor in the family. His son John Paul Alvarez was also proclaimed mayor of Ilog and another son, Genaro Rafael Alvarez III, won a seat for board member of the sixth district of Negros Occidental.

In Victorias City, Remedios Bantug (UNA) was proclaimed mayor while her younger brother, Severo Palanca, is her vice mayor. Palanca was a third-term mayor of the city who ran for vice mayor.

In Salvador Benedicto town, Cynthia de la Cruz was reelected mayor, with her son Marxlen as vice mayor.

These are just examples of "all in the family" electoral wins. Expect more of the same when the dust of the elections settle and more candidates are proclaimed winners. ***From the reports of Nagiel Bañacia, Felix Codilla, Nestor Burgos Jr., Hazel Villa, Carla Gomez and Alex Pal***

ACCELERATED AGING?
NASA DUGO LANG YAN!
4 pat na sangkap pinagsama sa 1 sa para makatulong sa circulation ng dugo.
CIRCULAN
Natural!
HELPS PROMOTE BLOOD CIRCULATION
AT LEADING DRUG STORES IN METRO MANILA

'Experts'

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo has been lambasted for the failure of his office to pay immediately the teachers who served as election inspectors last Monday.

Of course that was only one of the many complaints that had been hurled at the commission before, during, and after the voting. His explanation, according to one report, was that banks were closed on Monday and so they were not able to withdraw the amount needed for the payments.

His finance staff should be scored for lack of foresight, but in some way, perhaps, they also had reason for not getting the cash out as early as Friday last week. Considering the boldness of Manila's holduppers and swindlers, the Comelec withdrawal could have been waylaid on its way from the bank. It is not farfetched to think that this may have been the plan of some criminal elements, you see.

* * *

Obviously, the Comelec people do not have the resourcefulness of some candidates here who, last week yet, were said to have planed or carted in their sacks of cash already.

While one was reported to have taken out P5 million from his bank Thursday or Friday, the one with the sacks didn't bother the banks, and kept them at home—until they were passed on to thousands of those people whose votes we are counting today.

* * *

The city was a-buzz Thursday with reports that some "dagdag-bawas" experts had been seen going around, especially in the Bay Center area.

I am not inclined to believe that they are here for local operations, because whether *dagdag* (in the form of flying voters of some tradpols) had been planned, it has been implemented already. As for the *bawas*, the persistent reports about voters from another camp being paid NOT to vote if they cannot be convinced to become traitors, that, too, has happened already.

* * *

So, if the "experts" are really here, and I am also inclined to believe this, they'd be more concerned of influencing 13-0 or 0-13 in either way.

* * *

A friend noted yesterday that media people are luckier than show biz personalities as the recent election have shown.

Does this mean journalists now look more trustworthy? That they have shed off the envelopmental stigma already?

In Metro Manila, for instance, Today editor Teddy Boy Locsin is reported trouncing former MTRCB Chair Armida Siguion-Reyna in Makati's congressional race. In a manner of speaking, Armida is show biz, having hosted and starred in a TV program for some time, while Teddy Boy has been a columnist, editor and publisher, as well as host of a TV program. Strictly speaking, though, both are still media persons.

I wonder how my old friends and former teacher, Rod Reyes is faring in his bid for Congress? Although unassuming, quiet Rod would have been the last person I would expect to go into politics. His exposure as press secretary must have brought a lot of changes in his personality. I hope he makes it, too.

Still another media person, TV's Ted Failon, is said to be doing well as challenger to Tacloban's representative, Alfred Romualdez, of the famous Leyte clan.

I hope I haven't given more of my colleagues ideas by mentioning this.

PnM off to big start in Comelec canvass

(From page A1)

He was trailed by Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sergio Osmena III, Francis Pangilinan, Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier.

Franklin Drilon was in 14th place, followed by Ralph Recto.

The board of canvassers will be tabulating a total of 102 certificates of canvass (COCs) from 79 provincial boards, two district boards and 20 city boards.

Absentee votes

The 488 absentee votes were the first to be tabulated at the start of the canvassing around 10 a.m. since the COCs from the cities and provinces did not start arriving until noontime.

Absentee voting is a privilege given to military, police and government personnel who were assigned to poll duty outside their areas of residence on Election Day. The absentee votes were cast on May 7, and counted upon the close of the polls on May 14 by a special board.

It could not be immediately determined how many of the absentee voters were soldiers and policemen, but Comelec staff members said they composed the bulk of the voters.

Flavier (PPC) ranked fourth in the tally of the absentee votes with 300, followed by opposition rivals Ricardo Puno and Lacson.

The rest who made it to the Top 13 in the absentee voting were Santiago (PnM), whose brother is the Air Force chief; Rep. Wigberto Tañada (PPC); Angara; Ejercito; Drilon and Pangilinan.

Manila paper

But the canvassing had hardly gotten under way when other candidates' lawyers started protesting the count.

Lawyers of PPC senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada protested the canvassing of votes from Aurora because the COCs did not arrive in ballot boxes but were merely wrapped in manila paper.

Cecilio R. Dianco, chair of the provincial board of canvassers of Aurora, said the board chose to remove the certificates from the ballot boxes because of the "clear and present danger" of the boxes being snatched.

Dianco noted the presence of New People's Army rebels and other armed men in the vicinity of the provincial capitol. He also said helicopters were seen circling the area.

He said these factors prompted him to take the COCs out of the ballot boxes and wrap them to make them "inconspicuous."

"I had to do this for my safety and the safety of the documents," Dianco told the national board of canvassers.

Votes ignored

For his part, senatorial candidate Eddie Gil, who has consistently trailed in the quick counts, complained that his votes were not being counted in the precincts and asked the Comelec to stop the canvassing of votes for all senators and to hold a new senatorial election or recount.

Gil, lone candidate of the Isang Bansa Isang Diwa party, filed a complaint with the poll body, accusing city, municipal and provincial election officers, boards of election inspectors and boards of canvassers of defying a Comelec order to count his votes.

He also filed a damage claim of P20 million, which he said represented his campaign expenses.

Gil was belatedly added to the list of candidates following the reversal of an earlier order declaring him a nuisance candidate.

But since election forms had been printed by then, his name was not included on the list of candidates in the election returns, the certificates of canvass, the certificates of votes, and the certified list of candidates.

The Commission thus directed municipal and city election officers nationwide to instruct the Boards of Election Inspectors to count Gil's votes and write his name on the blank space after the name of the last senatorial candidate on the various voting and tally sheets.

But the candidate complained that votes in his favor were still not counted, and in some cases, his name was not even included in the lists.

Gil's curriculum vitae states that he is president and chair of Treasureland Ltd. and three other companies in the British Virgin Islands. He is also president and chair of the Philippine Reform newspaper in California.

Party-list delay

Amid the protests, a group of persons with disabilities (PWDs) charged that the Comelec has itself to blame for the delay in the canvassing of votes for the party-list election, because it approved the registration of political parties and other mainstream organizations.

Manuel Batac, president of Pinagbuklod Bagong Pag-asa Association Inc., said the Comelec could have minimized the delay in the count had it screened the groups on the basis of the whether they actually represented the marginalized.

"Now the Comelec is blaming the long list of party-list groups for the delay in the canvassing of votes in the party-list election. Why did they not trim down the list and select only the groups that represent marginalized, underrepresented sectors in the first place?" Batac said in a phone interview.

"Why did it allow political parties, religious groups and anti-drug watchdogs to join the party-list elections? Were these groups representing marginalized sectors like the disabled?" he asked, echoing previous complaints from other party-list groups.

Comelec Commissioner Resureccion Borra on Thursday attributed the continued delay to the long list, noting that 163 of these joined this year's election compared to 138 in 1998.

In the winning circle are the watchdog Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of actor Richard Gomez, which is leading in the unofficial count; Satur Ocampo's leftist organization Bayan Muna; Apec; Veterans Federation Party; Akbayan; the El Shaddai affiliate Buhay; and Cibac.

Large political parties are also lording it over the pack, with at least three—Promdi, PDP-Laban and Lakas-NUCD—among the top 10 winning groups based on the Namfrel quick count.

The party-list group that gets at least 2 percent of the total votes is entitled to one seat in Congress.

Bayan Muna, Akbayan and OFW-Ang Bagong Bayani have already petitioned the Supreme Court to disqualify MAD, Creba, Jeep and the National Federation, saying these were representing "non-marginalized" sectors.

"It's quite sad that some actors and old politicians are gaining power through the backdoor, the party-list elections," Batac lamented.

'When they fly, we fly; when they land...'

(From page A1)

"Why will I cheat when almost the whole of Mindanao is pro-Puwersa ng Masa," he said.

To illustrate that he was not engaged in electoral fraud, Policarpio said a cousin of his lost in a race for mayor in Marawi City. Another relative was losing in a race for the local council.

Policarpio also denied meeting with poll officials.

"I think that is the most stupid thing to do right now. You cannot talk to them because they are there counting," he said.

Visiting sick relatives

He said he was in Mindanao to visit sick relatives.

"If you ask why I am here, my wife is from Cagayan de Oro. We visited my mother-in-law who is sick. My mother, who is from Iligan, has been operated on," Policarpio said over radio dzRH from Misamis.

He said he was on vacation with his family in Mindanao.

"Please give my family some peace," he said, adding that they had already suffered a lot after he was linked to the *jueteng* scandal.

Policarpio said it was the PPC people from Manila who should explain their presence in Mindanao.

"If there is anyone planning to do (electoral fraud), it is the group in power," he said.

Policarpio said the helicopters, reportedly being used by the opposition, could have been transporting opposition lawyers, who allegedly had "unearthed plenty of fake" certificates of canvass in Mindanao.

Policarpio took off the Lumbia Airport in Cagayan de Oro City yesterday morning.

Luke Altillo, comptroller of the Air Transportation Office in Cagayan de Oro, said Policarpio was on his way to Iligan and Cotabato cities.

He said Policarpio returned to the Lumbia Airport yesterday afternoon.

Flight plan

Altillo said the pilot of Policarpio's helicopter had also applied for a flight plan for Mactan, Cebu and Bacolod for today.

There were reports that Policarpio also met with North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol Thursday afternoon.

But Piñol denied meeting with Policarpio. He said if Policarpio was indeed seen in Midsayap, North Cotabato, he had nothing to do with it.

Piñol said there was no need for PnM candidates to worry as most of them were "winning in North Cotabato."

"There's no way anybody can alter the results of the elections in North Cotabato," Piñol told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Sources said Policarpio was heading for Pagadian City from Tubod, Lanao del Norte. He is expected to proceed to Maguindanao where canvassing has yet to start at the Army's 6th Infantry Division headquarters.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th ID, denied reports that neither Policarpio nor Abadia had visited the camp in the past four days.

Dureza ends chase

In Davao City, Dureza said he had stopped chasing Policarpio.

"Jimpol (Policarpio) had disappeared from my radar screen. More things had to be done especially in the areas of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato to prevent an escalation of tension there," Dureza told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Dureza said he had set up a mechanism that would prevent attempts from all parties, including the PPC and the PnM, to pad or shave election results in Mindanao.

Dureza said he had asked teachers, military and members of the civil society groups in the cities of Marawi, Cagayan de Oro, Kidapawan and in General Santos to set up monitoring and security measures to avoid cheating during the canvassing.

He said he was no longer concerned with the winners in the senatorial race in Mindanao as the integrity of the election results was more important.

Tampering with the results of the elections might affect peace efforts in Mindanao, according to the presidential assistant.

Bishop's appeal

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla yesterday appealed to the PnM and PPC to recall their operatives as they were just fueling the tense political situation.

Capalla, who was Namfrel chair for the Lanao provinces in the 1992 elections, said that the security situation in the Lanao provinces were already sensitive and that efforts of influencing election results in these areas might only trigger more election violence

"All these chasing (by the operatives of the two parties) is like pouring gasoline on fire," Capalla said.

Besides Policarpio, PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco named Ben Katindig, Virgilio Carreon, Vic Rigor alias "Black Jack," Perry Callanta, Jerome Palacios, Rolly de la Cuesta, Jonathan de la Cruz and Danny Lim as among those behind the PnM's *dagdag-bawas* operations.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes cleared Col. Danilo Lim from allegations that the former military rebel leader was one of those engaged in *dagdag-bawas* operations for the opposition

Reyes assured the PnM that the PPC was not using military resources for post-election purposes.

The West Point-trained Lim commands the 42nd Infantry Battalion based in Ragay, Camarines Sur.

Lim figured prominently in the failed 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration. He was one of the ranking officers who led rebellious Scout Rangers in occupying high-rise buildings in Makati.

Even the pro-administration Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa said Lim, who once worked as an aide of Local Government Undersecretary Narciso Santiago Jr., was not involved in electoral fraud.

"*Nananahimik siya* (He's not doing anything)," RAM spokesperson Proceso Maligalig said.

In Naga City, Larry Basmayor, PPC Bicol campaign coordinator, said that Limcaoco had told him that his statement linking Lim to *dagdag-bawas* was based on raw information.

Basmayor said Lim could not be among those "political operators" tasked with cheating because he was even providing security for the PPC in the Bicol campaign.

"I have to correct the misimpression because I told him (Limcaoco) that Danny Lim is almost here with me everyday. So I asked him (Limcaoco) how could that be possible?" he said. ***With reports from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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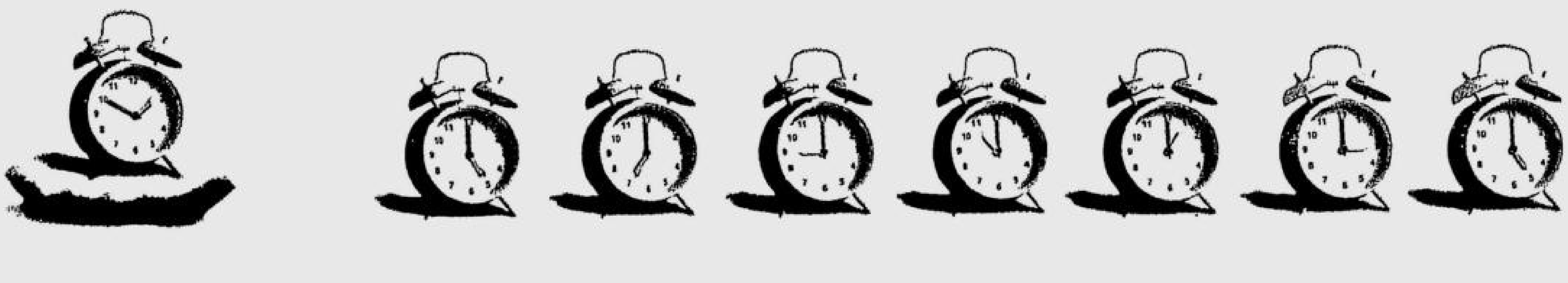

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PPC shows proof of Samar poll fraud

(From page A1)

PnM spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla said the administration wanted to ensure the defeat of Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who are all implicated in the alleged attempt to grab power from the Macapagal administration and install a civilian-military junta.

Remulla the other day claimed that the PnM had documented at least 38 cases of *bawas-bawas* maneuvers in 70 Metro Manila precincts alone.

He said the PnM had a copy of "tampered" election returns from an undisclosed precinct in Metro Manila where Lacson's 103 votes were changed to 0, Enrile's from 96 to 25, and Honasan's from 105 to 19.

He also said that while their candidates' votes were reduced, those for PPC candidate Liwayway Vinzons-Chato were raised from 16 to 116.

"We believe that this may be a part of the sinister plot to pull down the rankings of these opposition bets facing so-called rebellion charges so that they would be defeated in this year's election," Remulla said in a statement.

In a press conference last night, Jose Concepcion, chair of the National Citizens' Movement for free Elections, confirmed the existence of a new system of "*dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving)" in the town of Estancia in Iloilo.

Concepcion said he thought the discrepancies in the tally received by the Namfrel center in Greenhills, San Juan, were due to typographical errors on the part of the board of canvassers.

But when Namfrel audited the figures in the election returns and certificates of canvass, he said, he realized that the *dagdag-bawas* was "deliberate."

Concepcion said the biggest gainers in the supposed fraud in Estancia were PnM candidates except for Enrile, whose votes were reduced, and Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay of the PPC.

The other PnM candidates were Edgardo Angara, Santiago, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Honasan, Lacson, Orlando Mercado and Ricardo Puno.

Concepcion said the new *dagdag-bawas* was being done in the certificates of votes at the municipal level.

He said Namfrel would refer over 1,000 election documents to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the audit and review of the returns from Iloilo and Metro Manila.

Namfrel and party-list group Bayan Muna in Iloilo City have also discovered discrepancies in the computation of votes garnered by senatorial candidates and party-list groups.

Arturo Salazar, Namfrel chair in Iloilo, said that while there was no clear pattern to show that the discrepancies favored a particular party or candidate, there had been "errors" in the computations that were "selective."

Countermeasures

Lakas executive director Joey Rufino told the INQUIRER that PPC lawyers and officials were now gathering evidence on electoral fraud committed by the opposition in Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan, Leyte, the Davao provinces, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Norte, General Santos City, Bulacan, Laguna, Bataan and even Eastern Pangasinan.

"(But) we also have countermeasures that will blunt their sinister motives. They're in for the shock of their lives," Rufino said.

He acknowledged that one of these countermeasures involved the presence of former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia in Mindanao to monitor the movements of Joseph Estrada's former officials. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Rufino said the opposition had been resorting to *bawas-bawas* to enable more PnM candidates to win.

He said this was what had been happening in Northern Samar, where local PPC-Lakas candidates led by reelectionist Gov. Madeleine Ong were losing to PnM-LP candidates.

At the governor's residence Thursday night, Ong showed reporters copies of election returns in 24 municipalities in the province wherein Lakas lawyers found various irregularities involving handwriting, serial numbers and thumb marks and signatures.

In a news conference at the PPC headquarters in Ortigas City, Emil Ong, PPC regional coordinator in Eastern Visayas, said the supposed switching of the election returns occurred after the power outage in Northern Samar when the votes were being canvassed.

Ong said the outage occurred in "staggered" hours beginning at 10 p.m. in different areas until it covered the whole province at midnight of May 14. It lasted for eight hours.

He said Northern Samar suffered "the biggest electoral fraud in this election."

PPC lawyer Marilou Arzaga Mendoza said that in the local polls, one of those who "benefited" from the allegedly fabricated election returns was ex-Rep. Raul Daza, who is up against Ong for the gubernatorial post.

Also winning in the race for congressman for the first district was opposition candidate and reelectionist Harlin Abayon.

"They just don't want to admit that they lost," Abayon told reporters as he challenged the PPC to compare its copies of election returns with those of Namfrel.

But Ong herself expressed disbelief that she would get only 50 votes in the 74 precincts that had so far been canvassed in the province.

She likewise expressed incredulity over the outcome of the votes in the senatorial race, saying that even in the "interior barangays," the PnM candidates were winning.

"The trend of the votes here showed that in the senatorial elections, all the 13 PnM bets had votes but four of them topped the polls—Ejercito-Estrada, Angara, Honasan and Lacson," Ong said.

Mendoza said the PPC would seek the help of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"This is not a reflection of the sentiment and will of the people of Northern Samar," she said.

Inconsistencies

Earlier, Namfrel-Iloilo, who had finished tabulating 98 percent of the returns in Iloilo City and 40 percent in the province, said at least four of 10 election returns had "mistakes and inconsistencies."

Election returns audited by accountants at the Namfrel Center also showed that the total votes indicated did not match the tabulations per precinct.

In many cases, the entry for the total votes garnered by a candidate or party-list group did not match the spelled-out figure.

Namfrel's Salazar cited the case of senatorial candidate Moner Bajunaid who got no vote in precinct No. 15-A in Mina town, Iloilo. But in the municipal certificate of canvass, Bajunaid had 60 votes in that precinct, he said.

In another certificate of canvass, Salazar said, only the entry for senatorial candidates Eddie Gil was correct.

Bayan Muna said it had also noticed discrepancies in the results reported by the municipal board of canvassers in the ongoing tabulation of the provincial board of canvassers.

Siegfred Deduro, Bayan Muna, vice president for the Visayas, that while a single-digit difference in votes could be attributed to human error, the mistakes were significant to party-list groups who must get 2 percent of the total votes for the party list to seat one of its nominees in the House of Representatives.

Palace moves

Worried about reports of "substantial" election fraud, Malacañang announced yesterday that moves had been initiated against the local political leaders, government officials and opposition operators involved.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters that she had phoned political leaders in Mindanao in a renewed bid to counter ballot tampering, and that a task force from the Department of Justice had been sent to Mindanao to discourage government officials from getting involved in illegal election activities.

Abadia's chase of so-called opposition operators across Mindanao was part of these moves, Tiglao said.

He said accusations by the opposition that Ms Macapagal had asked Mindanao political leaders to reverse the vote counting to favor the PPC were "brazen lies and despicable black propaganda" aimed at besmirching her integrity.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez assured the opposition that its complaints of *dagdag-bawas* against the administration would be given the same attention.

"We will entertain complaints to be filed by the Puwersa ng Masa," Perez said at a news conference. "We will act without regard for political affiliation."

He added: "It does not matter whether the complainant is a member of Lakas or not. We at the (Department of Justice) must show our impartiality and enforce the law, whoever committed the transgression."

Perez yesterday sent a battery of government lawyers led by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to Mindanao, where large-scale incidents of *dagdag-bawas* are supposedly being committed.

"The reason Mindanao has been chosen is that it is the place where we have received the most number of complaints," he said.

Perez said the state lawyers would stay in Mindanao "for as long as it takes the Comelec or the board of canvassers to finish the canvass in Mindanao."

But demoralization has hit some PPC senatorial candidates, who complained that both its operations bureau and Malacañang appeared to have failed to effectively stop *dagdag-bawas.*

One leading PPC senatorial bet, who asked not to be named, said the Palace was not taking a proactive stand in preventing the electoral fraud that was undermining the PPC candidates' chances at victory.

"We were supposed to be a coalition. We were supposed to be backed by the administration. But as things stand now, we've been left to fend for ourselves. We've been abandoned," said the candidate.

Another PPC candidate said: "They have been informed beforehand that there would be massive cheating. They have the resources to thwart these irregularities, but it seems protecting the sanctity of the ballot is not among the administration's priorities.

"We've been taking a beating at the end game but the Palace doesn't seem to care."

Party list

The party-list group Sanlakas said *dagdag-bawas* was rearing its ugly head even in the party-list election, and accused the administration of manipulating results to ensure defeat for groups critical of the President.

"It seems that the marginalized sectors are now being edged out by bigger parties who have the capabality and the resources to conduct *dagdag-bawas,*" said Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza.

"It is groups like Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa who have called for the resignation of Estrada and (Macapagal) which are the targets of *dagdag-bawas,*" he said.

Fortaleza noted that the militant Bayan Muna, which he said was closely identified with the administration, was placing second in the Namfrel count.

Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa ranked 12th and 20th in the Namfrel quick count, but Fortaleza said it was still early to say if both groups would be able to get the required votes.

But Bayan Muna itself accused "certain quarters" of cheating it of victory, following the reported dismantling of its tents outside the PICC at around 5:30 p.m. by a contingent of Marines, policemen and PICC guards.

Crispin Beltran, Bayan Muna vice president, said the dispersal of their volunteers and the tearing down of Bayan Muna's monitoring center outside the PICC proved that "something was terribly wrong."

"We have firm reasons to believe that Bayan Muna is being cheated of its rightful votes and that there are concerted efforts to keep Bayan Muna from winning seats in Congress," Beltran said.

He said there were similar reports in other regions where Bayan Muna monitoring centers outside the canvassing areas were being dismantled. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Cynthia D. Balana, Martin P. Marfil, Gerald G. Lacuarta, Cathy C. Yamsuan and Irene Andrea C. Perez in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Strong showing by PnM is bad news for Perez

(From page A1)

opposition leaders was a hot topic between Perez and justice reporters yesterday after the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) quick count showed that the four PnM candidates could make it to the Senate.

What if Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Santiago land in the magic circle of winning senatorial candidates and are nominated by the PnM as its representatives in the Commission on Appointments?

And what if they exact revenge on Perez for issuing arrest orders against them for allegedly provoking supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada that gathered at the Edsa Shrine into laying siege on Malacañang last May 1?

"Too bad for me," Perez told reporters who asked him about the scenario.

But he remains optimistic that the group will be objective and understand that he was just doing his job.

"I doubt if they would take it personally," he said. "I was just doing my job."

Perez explained he would be advocating bad policy if he turned a blind eye to their supposed offense.

"It would set a very bad precedent if I don't prosecute them," he said.

Lacson has been consistently placing in the top 13 in the Namfrel count. Honasan and Enrile at times make it to 12th or 13th place. And Santiago is not far behind at 14th or 15th place.

Once election returns from the opposition's bailiwicks come in, the likelihood that the four would make it to the 12th Congress becomes more likely.

Of the four, it was only Enrile who was arrested by the police and he spent five days in Camp Crame while the state of rebellion declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo was in effect.

Santiago had dared authorities to come and get her, while she displayed a handgun on her worktable during an interview with reporters.

Honasan and Lacson went into hiding until Ms Macapagal acceded to a request by the PnM to allow the two to attend the opposition's grand rally on May 11.

A nomination of the opposition leaders by their party as its representatives in the CA could hurt Perez's chances of getting confirmed as justice secretary.

It is the CA that decides, through a vote by its members, whether to accept or reject a Cabinet member nominated by the President.

Ople vows to make Comelec execs cry

(From page A1)

that while calls for Tancangco's impeachment may be valid, Congress should also be held liable for the electoral pandemonium since it failed to pass the budget for computerizing the voting process.

"It's not far out to suspect that some lawmakers may have intended to delay the passage of the budget and the much needed reforms so that they could benefit from the mess in the Comelec when they ran for reelection," said Flag spokesperson Carlos Isagani Zarate in Davao City.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion, who had called for Tangcanco's impeachment, said he was not after her neck for personal reasons.

"What we're fighting for is a solution to a problem of the elections. If the process were computerized, the counting would be over in five minutes," he said, lamenting the plight of teachers who had to count votes for nearly 12 hours straight.

Concepcion also denied Tancangco's statement insinuating that he was pushing for the computerization of elections because big businessmen like him would benefit from it.

Hard time

In a statement, Ople said, "public ire seemed to focus on Tancangco for defying her superior on numerous occasions and for failing to carry out her major assignments."

But Ople also said he would give three Macapagal appointees to the Comelec a "difficult time" when they appear before the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, referring to Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon Jr.

"The Comelec officials will have a lot to answer when they appear before the Commission on Appointments," said Ople, a member of the CA.

He warned that the officials could face impeachment for failing to implement the election computerization law.

"The failure to modernize the electoral process is a dereliction of duty that calls for proper sanctions," he said.

'Squarely to blame'

Teodoro Casiño of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the commissioners "should not only be investigated but should be made to answer for the election disaster." The moderate party-list group Akbayan not only supported Namfrel's call to impeach Tancangco but also wanted courtesy resignations from the commissioner's colleagues.

The group said that the agency was "squarely to blame" for the "highly questionable voter's list, disenfranchised voters, missing election paraphernalia and the confused and glacially slow-paced canvassing process."

Akbayan president Joel Rocamora said, "we are now in the 21st century, yet the system seems to be that of the 19th century."

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said that while the group did not want to make a sweeping judgement of all the commissioners, effective reforms would be possible only if the commissioners stepped down.

"Such courtesy resignations do not preclude the possibility of their being reappointed—they only pave the way for a freer, more expedient reform process of the institution," she said.

List

To illustrate the Comelec's alleged "ineptness," Ople cited the officials' convening of the national board of canvassers Wednesday and Thursday, only to discover there was not a single certificate of canvass to tabulate.

Ople wants Senate investigators to also look into:

- Widespread violence leading to 98 deaths.
- The deletion of names in approved voters' lists.
- Cases of double registration in Mindanao.
- The supposed disenfranchisement of four million young voters.
- The inclusion of political parties or questionable sectoral groups in the party-list system.
- The poor information drive on the general conduct of the elections.
- The status of the P280-million precinct mapping system.
- The failure to pay teachers who did poll duty on time.
- Delayed canvassing in many parts of Metro Manila.

In Davao City, the newly organized Young Women Leaders Institute for Political Leadership also called on the government to thoroughly investigate the Comelec and review the electoral process.

"The Comelec should be reformed at all costs to avoid a repeat of these problems especially in the 2004 presidential elections," said City Councilor Luzviminda Ilagan, a teacher at the Young Women Leaders Institute. ***With reports from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Cynthia Balana***

PPC lead firms up as Recto surges

(From page A1)

and 3rd spots, respectively, while Joker Arroyo took the fourth position from Edgardo Angara, who dropped to 9th place.

Angara's partymate, Panfilo Lacson, went down four steps to 10th place.

Still hanging on to the 5th slot was Franklin Drilon, followed by Ramon Magsaysay, 6th;, Villar, 7th; and Francis Pangilinan, 8th.

Another PnM candidate in the winning circle was Loi Ejercito-Estrada who placed 11th, one step lower than her previous rank as of the close of the Namfrel tally Thursday night.

De Castro remained the runaway winner in Metro Manila, Caraga and Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Arroyo took the lead from De Castro in Bicol (Region 5).

Flavier was still the consistent topnotcher in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, Drilon in Region 6, Osmeña in Region 7, and Santanina Rasul in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

MAD and Bayan Muna

Still leading the party-list count as of 2:20 p.m. was the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of movie actor Richard Gomez with 315,727 votes.

Satur Ocampo's leftist organization Bayan Muna was second with 251,684 votes; followed by APEC, 95,131; VFP, 78,763; and Akbayan, 63,502.

Trailing behind were Buhay, 60,552; Cibac, 55,976; Promdi, 50,425; Butil, 48,726; and Lakas-NUCD, 46,744.

The party-list group that will get at least 2 percent of the total party-list votes will be entitled to one seat in Congress. A total of 163 party-list groups have joined the race.

1-4-8 in Mindanao

In Mindanao, eight PnM senatorial candidates maintained their lead over the PPC, which managed to push only four of its candidates to the winning circle, according to the partial consolidated tabulation from Namfrel's provincial and city chapters on the island.

De Castro topped the list with 642,076 votes. PnM candidates occupied Nos. 2 to 8.

Honasan led the pack of PnM candidates with 478,824 votes. Trailing him were Ejercito-Estrada with 472,971 votes; Lacson, 464,508 votes; Angara, 434,729 votes; Enrile, 427,994 votes; Santiago, 425,205 votes; and Puno, 388,655 votes.

The highest spot that PPC reached in the senatorial race was ninth place, occupied by Osmeña with his 381,547 votes.

But PnM's Mercado took the 10th place with 315,885 votes.

PPC's Flavier (312,289 votes) and Drilon (307,817 votes) were in the 11th and 12th spots, respectively. Arroyo, also of PPC, took the 13th slot with 289,905 votes.

The partial Namfrel tabulation was consolidated by the Bantay Halalan 2001 of the Mindanao operations center of the Office of the President from 24 of 34 cities and provinces.

The tabulated results were taken from the Namfrel quick count centers in the provinces of Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Basilan, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and Tawi-Tawi.

The consolidated Namfrel quick count also covered the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Cotabato.

In Manila, Namfrel yesterday said it was still ahead of schedule as far as the tabulation of votes in the race for senatorial and party-list representatives were concerned.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion refused to accept that the poll watchdog's quick count, which entered its fourth day yesterday, was slower than the quick count being conducted by some media groups.

Concepcion stressed that Namfrel's count was faster than its tabulation during the 1998 elections.

He said that Namfrel was able to tally 57,532 precincts on the third day of the quick count as against only 40,000 precincts during the same period in 1998.

"You can see that we keep pace," he said. "It only shows that we have a better pacing now."

For two straight days, reporters at the Namfrel tabulation center at La Salle Greenhills had to wait for at least seven hours before the next tally was issued.

Earlier, Namfrel officers blamed the slowdown on the insufficient memory of their computers which failed to accommodate the surge of data from the different Namfrel field offices.

Concepcion said the encoding of figures in computers continued despite the almost 9-hour interval in the release of the tally to reporters.

"This is despite the existence of ineligible returns given to Namfrel," Concepcion pointed out.

He added that Namfrel volunteers were conducting an inventory of all the unreadable 6th copy of the election returns furnished them as possible evidence against Comelec officials who should be blamed for the problems that plagued the elections.

Gov's ma . . .

(From page A1)

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, died when their helicopter, borrowed by the governor from Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's Jaka Corp. to help monitor election results, crashed on a mountain in Barangay Manalo, 60 km from this city.

Later, an Air Force chopper dispatched to recover the ill-fated Bell helicopter crashed while leaving the first crash site. The second crash occurred at 7:50 p.m., officials said.

Seven servicemen perished—the two pilots and five crewmen, according to Philippine Air Force spokesperson Col. Lino Lapinid, who identified the military aircraft as a Sikorsky with tail No. S-976.

Of the killed rescuers, only Dr. Willian Lim, Wescom medical officer, was identified by Palawan officials.

The military chopper belonged to the 505th search and rescue squadron based in Puerto Princesa.

Of the six fatalities from the first crash, three were totally burned, according to Rolando E. Bonoan Jr., Palawan public information officer.

The fatalities were Lualhati Reyes, mother of the governor; Rene Marucot, pilot; aircraft mechanic Rodolfo Jastiba; Jun Sta. Cruz; Modesto Hilongos; and Ramil Miraflores.

The eight-seater Bell 407 helicopter had just returned from San Vicente town in Northern Palawan, where its passengers reportedly monitored the vote canvassing.

The pilot reportedly radioed the Air Transportation Office to report that the aircraft was having engine trouble.

Residents of Barangay Manalo said they heard an explosion before the helicopter went down at 4:20 p.m.

They immediately relayed the incident to the Western Command.

Wescom chief Rodolfo Rabago quickly dispatched two rescue teams aboard two choppers, the Sikorsky and a Huey, to the crash site.

The rescue teams, however, could not get close to the burning Bell chopper and had to turn back.

The Sikorsky was still maneuvering when it appeared to hit something, town residents said.

Smoke billowed from the plane, followed by an explosion, the witnesses said.

Adelberto Yap, head of ATO, said the cause of the crash was still undetermined. He said he would send a team to Palawan to investigate the crash.

Governor Reyes reportedly borrowed the Bell helicopter from Jaka through businessman Pepito Alvarez. ***Floreno G. Solmirano, Geraldford Ticke, Ruelle Albert Castro and Jofelle P. Tisorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Rocky Nazareno and TJ Burgonio***

Que ousts La'O, 4 & 2

MATCHES TODAY *(Semifinals)*
7 a.m. Angelo Que vs Iggy Clavecilla,
7:08 Solomon Gines vs Juvic Pagunsan

By Jong Arcano

THE WIFE and the girlfriend shared the same cart and did everything to cheer them up. If only they had a choice, both Angelo Que and Cookie La'O (the married one)—two training partners who had shared long years of friendship—wouldn't have played the match at all.

The problem was, one of them had to go.

Que stayed after beating La'O, 4 and 2, yesterday to move ominously closer to his third straight trip to the finals of the 2001 Philippine amateur golf championship at Alabang.

QUE

Que surged ahead with par-birdie-birdie from the 10th en route to a semifinal date with 53-year-old Iggy Clavecilla at 7 a.m. today.

Clavecilla, relying chiefly on his impeccable short game, shot down his own protégé from Del Monte, Joel Opaco, via a 3 and 1 decision. He will seek a return trip to the finals 13 years after losing to Vince Lauron in the 1989 edition at Wack Wack.

Juvic Pagunsan and Solomon Gines forged an all-Canlubang duel for the other finals ticket and will clash in the other semis battle at 7:08.

Pagunsan, the DHL Open champion who is eyeing a dream matchup with Que, birdied the last hole to preserve a 1 up victory over last year's losing finalist, Jerome Delariarte.

Gines defeated Cangolf teammate Abe Rosal, 2 up.

"It was hard for me just as it should be hard for him," said Que of his victory over La'O. "I played very well today and the breaks went my way in the back nine."

Que's girlfriend, Tracy Locsin, and LaO's wife, Dimples, followed them all throughout on board a golf cart.

A par from the bunker on the 10th to go one up set the tone for Que's breakaway. He then went two ahead on the 11th with a brilliant chip-in for birdie from 15 yards before making birdie on the par-3 12th for a 3-hole lead.

It was a big letdown for La'O who had just broken his first-round jinx in match play against Marvin Dumandan via a 7 and 5 rout.

Amandoron breaks SEAG mark

By June Navarro

GERALYN Amandoron failed to top the women's javelin but nevertheless broke the Southeast Asian Games record amid a humid atmosphere yesterday in the 2001 Milo National Open Invitational Track and Field Championships at the Rizal Memorial Track Oval.

The 22-year-old Amandoron registered 53.75 meters in her fourth try to surpass the 51.10 SEA Games mark held by Indonesia's T. Ratnaningsih.

Zhang Guirong, a Chinese national representing Singapore, topped the event with 54.34 meters.

Despite playing only second fiddle, Amandoron immediately fetched P50,000, courtesy of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Guirong followed up her record-smashing effort in women's shot put Thursday. Guirong and her compatriot Du Xian Hua shattered the SEA Games record after finishing 1-2 in the event.

In the women's century dash, Lerma Bulauitan encountered stiff opposition before bagging the gold in 11.6 seconds, three-tenths of a second shy of her personal best of 11.3.

Thailand's Orranut Klomdee engaged Bulauitan in a neck-to-neck battle but tripped a few meters before the finish line to snare the silver in 12 seconds flat.

Earlier, the 26-year-old Bulauitan, considered as the heir apparent to Elma Muros-Posadas, jumped her way to the gold in the long jump after registering 6.25 meters.

JRC posts 5th victory

JOSE Rizal's Heavy Bombers subdued Angelicum College, 89-82, yesterday to post their fifth straight senior win in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament at Philsports.

The UST Tigers improved their record to 3-1 by blasting St. Jude, 74-58, in another senior march in the 45-team cagefest sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

College of St. Benilde also scored its third win in five games by toying with UST, 75-55.

Over at the FEU gym, Mapua stalled Xavier School's semifinal bid by dealing the Stallions their first setback in seven games, 75-72. The Stallions get a second chance to gain the semis when they play PCU at 11 a.m. today at the UE gym.

Shark battles Ana today

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L	Group B		
Group A			PharmaQuick	6	4
Shark	8	1	Hapee	5	5
Ana Freezer	6	2	Montaña	2	7
GIV Soap	6	3	Ateneo-Pioneer	2	7
Welcoat	5	3	Osaka	0	8

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Shark vs Ana Freezer
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs GIV Soap

PACESETTER Shark Energy Drink tries anew to avail of the twice-to-beat privilege as it clashes with closest pursuer Ana Freezer today in the PBL Chairman's Cup quarterfinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Frustrated by GIV Beauty Soap, 76-63 last May 15, the Power Boosters meet the Freezer Kings at 2 p.m., the curtain-raiser of a twinbill dubbed by scribes as 'Bloody Saturday.'

In the second game at 4 p.m., defending champion Welcoat seeks to fortify its bid for the second spot in the carryover semifinals against GIV, whose stock rose after it stopped Shark's eight-game winning streak.

The Paintmasters escaped with a 78-74 decision over the Soap Makers in the eliminations last April 19.

Shark coach Leo Austria described Ana as "unpredictable."

TMS deadline

THE DEADLINE of registration for the TMS National Open Tennis ends at 12 noon today. The tournament, organized by the Philippine Tennis Association, will have a 64-man draw in the men's division and 32 in the women's division. National team mainstays Johnny Arcilla, Rolando Ruel Jr., Czarina Mae Arevalo, Vida Alpuerto and outstanding juniors Ian de Guzman, Johan and Yannick Guba are expected to see action in the Open slated May 21-27 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Literal to boycott BAP election June 7

QUINTELIANO 'Tiny' Literal yesterday said he is not going to participate in the June 7 BAP elections called by his rival, Lito Puyat.

Accusing Puyat of "destroying the BAP through meddling in its affairs," Literal said Puyat does not have any authority to call an election since "he is only an officer-in-charge" of a BAP faction headed by Freddie Jalasco.

According to Puyat, the June 7 polls "would be final, legal and sanctioned by the Philippine Olympic Committee." The former Fiba president also enjoined Literal and his backers to forget about politics and leave the BAP "in good hands."

Hoop It Up Kings trounce Suns anew, 86-77

THE HOOP It Up Kings repeated over the Suns, 86-77, while the Knights upset defending champion Bombers, 80-68, recently to share the lead at the start of the second round of the 2001 (3rd) FIBL basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

The Kings lost a 23-20 lead on Avinash Hathiramani's two successive hits but came back quickly through Raju Bhullar, Mike Singh, playing coach Mike Advani and three-point shooter Kamlesh Ramchandani.

Bhullar was chosen MVP after the game after scoring 30 points, 14 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, and 5 shot-blocks.

In the second game, the Knights beat the Bombers, 80-68.

In the nightcap, Delhi Dragons beat Bangalore Blades, 52-47.

Action resumes tomorrow, with the Knights facing Hoop It Up Kings in the first game at 2 p.m. The Bombers resume their title-retention campaign when they go up against the Suns in the second game.

SPORTSWATCH

GMA to open 'Kawal Golf'

HER EXCELLENCY Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will open the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup today at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. The activity begins at 8 a.m. when the President will meet with top government officials and business leaders. A ceremonial turnover of financial assistance packages to the ASK beneficiaries of three soldiers killed in action will also be held. The tournament proper starts with a shotgun tee-off on both the Couples and Langer courses.

Football tomorrow at Ateneo

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation will hold a one-day tournament at the Ateneo college soccer grounds tomorrow as part of a series of events to drum up interest for the Asian Group I World Cup qualifying match between the Philippines and Laos next weekend. According to PFF general secretary Chris Monfort, the event is jointly organized with the National Capital Region Football Association headed by Santi Elizalde and will be a seven-a-side competition. The teams in tomorrow's tourney, he said, will have at least three to four games in the eliminations with the top two finishers in each of the preliminary groups advancing to the quarterfinals, until the last two teams standing dispute the division crown.

Lunas extends unbeaten streak to 8

YOUTHFUL sensation Rolly Lunas outboxed former junior flyweight champion Lito Laroa in a 10-round bout last Friday at the Cainta Sports Center. Only 17, Lunas improved his undefeated record to eight fights. Lunas won by unanimous decision over the well-experienced Laroa. The event was promoted by Marick Neighborhood Association and Lazaro's Trading in coordination with international promoter Jun Sarreal.

National chessfest starts at 'Hiyas'

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua and Woman National Master Christine Grace Espallardo lead the charge of the fancied bets as the 2001 National Age Group Chess Championship begins today at 1 p.m. at the Kaban ng Hiyas Building of the Mandaluyong City Hall complex. Seventeen-year-old Paragua (Elo 2454) and Istanbul Olympian Espallardo (Elo 2050) will be brandishing their creative plays in the Under-20 bracket of the boys' and girls' division, respectively. Paragua may expect stiff opposition from 14-year-old National Juniors champ John Paul Gomez and UST standout Roland Salvador. Espallardo will collide with fellow Olympian Leah Bernardo and UE Board 1 player Carmina Joy Mariano.

Derby back at Roligon cockpit

COCKING aficionados return to Roligon Mega Cockpit today starting at 6 p.m. as the huge cockfight's center reopens under the new management of Danny Ty & Co. who promises to deliver "Parehas at Mabilis na Sultada, Bayad Agad Pago at Parada." Hosted by the RAY Group, tonight's derby has lined up no less than 60 matches. Fights 1-5 will be between roosters with the lowest registered weights, while fights 6-10 will be among heavyweights. Respected by his peers in the cocking community, Ty is highly regarded for his derby management expertise and is known for the longest running yearly cocking event in the country—the Showdown Annual Derby.

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Race 2—1. Bidang Bida 2. Brazen Truth 3. October Sky

Race 3—1. Cuadro De Alas 2. Patikim 3. Perfect Storm 4. River Bandit 5. Speed Charm

Race 4—1. Brilliant Leader 2. Gallant Rose 3. Zenie's Pride 4. Royal Harvest

Race 5—1. Ableskiver 2. Grand Dancer 3. Bravada 4. Call To Action

Race 6—1. Justsaywhenjen 2. Majestic Ruler 3. Flying Joey 4. Baptism of Fire 5. Hercules

Race 7—1. Exceptional Charm 2. Galvalume 3. Dr. Jones

Race 8—1. All Powerful 2. Typhoon Belle 3. Silky Sullivan 4. Pride of Mandaue 5. Time Street

Race 9—1. Impeccable/Perry's Will 2. Knows Love 3. Don't Worry 4. Classy Babe

Race 10—1. Yoko Lady 2. Strong Wind 3. Khazan

Race 11—1. Sisboomba/Mighty Warrior 2. Darth Vader 3. Grand Prize 4. Spoiler 5. Sunny Sky/Roman Queen

Race 12—1. Extra Strength 2. Royal Angel 3. Gambatte 4. Jhelen 5. Diamond Star

Race 13—1. College Gem 2. Dragon Strike 3. Forthefirsttime 4. Victoria Scarlet 5. Big Bucks

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Ace by a 101-year-old

DEERFIELD BEACH, Florida—A 101-year-old golfer thought it was nothing special when he aced the 16th hole at Deerfield Country Club. It was, after all, his sixth hole-in-one. But the 4-iron shot on the 98-meter (108-yard), par 3 made Harold Stilson the oldest golfer to achieve the feat, breaking a 16-year-old record set by a 99-year-old Spaniard. He was unprepared for the attention that followed - calls from ESPN and David Letterman and a news conference in front of the club's putting green. "For God's sake! For a hole-in-one?" he said.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals – Philadelphia vs Toronto, Game 6 at 8 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
BOXING: Friday Night Fights at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Auto Review features the new Honda Civic Lxi in today's (Sat. May 19) Test Drive Segment starting at 6 p.m. on PTV 4.

SMB captures All-Filipino Cup

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ENOUGH is enough!

That's what San Miguel Beer seemed to have in mind when it finally finished off pesky Barangay Ginebra, 95-75, in Game 6 last night to capture the PBA All-Filipino Cup title at the Araneta Coliseum.

Unlike in Games 3 and 4 (both won by the Gin Kings), the Beermen were surefooted all the way, systematically tearing the game apart as early as in the second quarter to coast along to their unprecedented 16th title.

It was the Beermen's fifth championship in six conferences, stamping their class over nine other squads to take their first AFC crown since 1994.

Moreover, the Beermen—who now hold all three PBA gems at the same time having won last year's Commissioner's and Governors Cups—are now in the process of establishing a dynasty never before seen since Alaska Milk dominated the league in mid-'90s.

"It all felt very good. Ginebra really made us work for the title," said SMB coach Jong Uichico, who kept his perfect 5-of-5 title slate as coach dating back since 1999.

The Beermen flashed their championship form in keeping the Gin Kings at bay for most part to once and for all pocket the championship amid Ginebra's surprisingly meek stand.

After taking Games 1 and 2, San Miguel allowed Ginebra to come back and tie the best-of-seven series to 2-2 before taking the pivotal Game 5, 98-95, in overtime last Wednesday.

The series proved to be a blockbuster as many expected as it drew a throng of 17,511 paying audience last night — the biggest crowd the league ever had since 1975.

And though the fans were largely pro-Ginebra, San Miguel didn't flinch, standing pat in its slow, half-court game that worked wonders as Danny Seigle and Dwight Lago started hitting their shots.

Seigle signaled the coming wrath by firing from all angles to finish the first half with 19 points, including two free throws that enabled the Beermen to tie the game at 32 early in the second quarter.

There was no stopping San Miguel from then on, dominating the boards (26-11) and moving the ball far better (18-9) to take a 50-39 halftime lead.

The Beermen also made key adjustments in defense, putting Freddie Abuda on deadly rookie clutch shooter Mark Caguioa, who, for the past five games, had been mocking Rob Duat's guarding.

With San Miguel forcing action inside, things got rougher with several skirmishes breaking underneath involving Vergel Meneses against Nic Belasco and Seigle versus Ronald Magtulis.

But the Beermen dealt the ruggedness with some equally tough measures, drowning the Gins with a flurry of baskets to pull away by as many as 19 points (60-39) on a reverse fastbreak slam by Seigle early in the third.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 95—Seigle 31, Belasco 15, Lago 11, Racela 11, Ildefonso 8, Peña, Victoria 5, Mustre 3, Abuda 2, Dual 2, Mente 0, Gamboa 0.

GINEBRA 75—Meneses 23, Limpot 22, Caguioa 12, David 9, Helterbrand 9, Lago 0, Calpito 0, Ong 0, Crisano 0, Magtulis 0.

Quarterscores: 17-20, 50-39, 72-53, 95-75

GOLD

Paulo Martinez of the University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna leaps to 6.88m to win the long jump gold yesterday. (*Story on A17*). ERNIE SARMIENTO

What comes next to text?
TEXT CARD
afro
alarmclo
alien
angel
babe
barkada
bikini
bikini2
butterfly
car
cheerdan
cherub
chess
citycar2
cloak
clown
commando
cute girl
diver
dragon2
dreads
eye
family
flowers
froggy
futbol2
girlphone
grunge
hapibday
iguana
jesus
jologs
lion
langaw
lightclo
lips
yinyang
loveyou
luvsick
luvcoz
luvu
madboss
madgirl
mobile
mona
moon
mummy
mylove
navyseal
nerdkada
perkup
peso
puppy
riotgrrl
robot1
sarge
scary2
seeyou
sillydog
snake
suit
suit2
sun
sunflowe
sweetdre
tattoo
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zeus
ur my angel
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Via the menu-based convenience of GlobeXPLORE Campus Pack:

1 GlobeXplore
First, click Menu on your phone and scroll to select GlobeXplore Campus Pack.

2 GlobeIcons / GlobeTones / Picture Msg
Click on Fun and select Picture Msg.

3 Categories / Download / Forward
To send the Text Card to yourself, click on Download.

4 Categories / Download / Forward
To send the Text Card to a friend, click on Forward.

5 Pictures Keyword. / afro
Type in the keyword of your Text Card choice, or click on Categories for other options.

6 Picture message received
You or your friend will receive the requested Text Card.

Via the familiar text-based keywords of InfoText:

1 TC afro
To download: type in TC <title> (ex. TC afro); send to 2301 then wait for reply; and select either show, save or discard.

2 TC afro / 09171234556 / Alexis / hello my friend!
To send or forward: Type in TC <title> <0917 + ghp number> <sender's name> <sender's message>; and send to 2301 then wait for reply.

Don't blame Comelec, Mandaluyong bet told
A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Adventures in poll watching
A25

Alma Moreno's brother stabbed in clash with Olivarez group

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A BROTHER of actress Alma Moreno was stabbed early yesterday morning after he tried to shield her during a confrontation between supporters of Moreno's husband, reelectionist Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, and his rival Pablo Olivarez.

Moreno's real name is Venessa Lacsamana.

Her brother, Freddie Lacsamana, 46, married, of 301 Del Pilar St., Nuestra Señora San Antonio Valley 1 also in Parañaque, was stabbed once in the right side of the stomach, according to Insp. Edgardo Ariarte, Parañaque City Police Criminal Investigation Division chief.

An alleged supporter of Olivarez, Rolando Sanchez of Block 38 Topaz St., Bernabe Subdivision, Sucat, also in Parañaque, was also stabbed during the confrontation.

Sanchez is now undergoing treatment

ALMA/ A20

NAMFREL/COMELEC

MANILA

As of 11 a.m.

Mayor	
Atienza	121,622
Lim	68,408
Bagatsing	46,836
Vice Mayor	
Lacuna	111,368
Dionisio	45,153
Gernale	21,613
Congressmen	
1st District	
Nieva	22,175
Isidro	9,024
Lim	5,103
2nd District	
Lopez	12,679
Ponce	10,524
Viceo	3,231
3rd District	
Angping	25,581
Fugoso	11,288

NAMFREL/ A20

Asistio supporters: We won't take defeat

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND LOUIE JON SANCHEZ

SUPPORTERS of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, and his older brother, former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr., yesterday threatened to stage a "People Power III" in Caloocan City to protest the defeat of their candidates and to keep Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo from retaining his post.

About 200 Asistio loyalists have been camping out in front of Caloocan City Hall since Tuesday night "as a show of force and support" to the Asistio brothers. They said they would stay there until the Asistios are proclaimed winners.

"We will not allow the Asistios to lose," Asistio supporter Luz Manalang said in Filipino. "We will not let Malonzo keep his post."

She said supporters would stage a rally, similar to the violent Labor Day riot where followers of deposed President Estrada virtually laid siege to Malacañang, to protest the alleged election fraud.

ASISTIO/ A20

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TRISTAN YAP, LEV PE OF HYPOCRITE
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*A project of Syquia Marketing and Management Group

Wazzzzup?

8th day St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr	DIVAS 9 MM	P 300 CONSUMABLE ☎634.7696/98
AUDIOTORIUM 21 West Ave., Quezon City	FREEVERSE	374.2330/373.5574
Cowboy Grill Almanza, Las Piñas	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill Arquiza St., Malate	HOMOSAPIENS KNIGHTS/HIMIG	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-3 AM/525.4269
Cowboy Grill Remedios St., Malate	STAY TUNED SWEET BLOOD	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	REPLICA MR. ROXY/KOOL JACKS	SOUTHBORDER MAY 21, MONDAY
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	MAN CALLED HORSE COMEDY NIGHT	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎373.3333
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXER D' BOSS/1201	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎373.5110
LITE n'LIVE #52 Examiner St. Q.C.	TRUE FAITH POLICY	P 150 CONSUMABLE ☎373.2221
Music Rehouse In front of Central Market	M SERIES SLIDE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 735.1280/735.1405
TIA MARIA'S Jupiter St. Makati City	VERSE 2 S O G	SOUTHBORDER MAY 23, WEDNESDAY
Tropical FOREST Cafe Grill Restaurant	CRUISIN	PICA-PICA PLATTER MON-FRI/P200
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's Real Calamba, Laguna	ALTER EGO (FULL FORCE)	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎(0919)2786391
Ka Freddie Marcos Highway, Antipolo	MAEGAN AGUILAR SOUL REMEDY	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎677.0795
PartyPlace San Fernando Pampanga	UNLIMITED EDTION	FREESTYLE MAY 25, FRIDAY
PURPLE Ostrich Island Cove, Kawit, Cavite	SIDE A REGINE V.	P 200 TICKET/7 PM ☎810.3718

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2
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May 8-14 Alabang Town Center | May 24-30 Festival Mall | May 31-June 6 SM Megamall

*Based on WRC current standings as of April 2001
Visit www.mitsubishi-motors.co.jp for complete Rally details.

SLEEP + NIDO = GROWTH

Namfrel/Comelec (From page 19)

MANILA	
As of 11 a.m.	
4th District	
Bacani	33,300
Herrera	11,563
5th District	
Hizon	41,805
Cantal	5,948
6th District	
Crespo	15,188
Ocampo	14,433
Abante	11,716
MALABON	
As of 12 p.m.	
Mayor	
Vicencio	55,380
Marcelo	26,073
Congressman	
Sandoval	32,917
Oreta	28,195
NAVOTAS	
Mayor	
Tiangco	32,524
del Rosario	14,320
MUNTINLUPA	
As of 5:30 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Fresnedi	5,883
Masangkay	4,165
Congressmen	
Biazon	4,686
Bunye	4,431
NAVOTAS	
As of 5 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Tiangco	46,503
del Rosario	20,710
Congressman	
Sandoval	41,532
Oreta	28,735
MUNTINLUPA	
As of 5:00 p.m. (Comelec)	
Mayor	
Fresnedi	14,990
Masangkay	10,807
Vice Mayor	
Alcaraz	13,958
Chua	11,629
Congressman	
Biazon	12,023
Bunye	11,428
MANDALUYONG	
As of 12:58 p.m.	
Mayor	
Abalos	40,160
Domingo	28,718
Vice Mayor	
Cruz	36,187
Salvador	26,767
Congressman	
Gonzales	40,578
Domingo-Buan	17,101
QUEZON CITY	
As of 12:21 p.m.	
Mayor	
Belmonte	288,368
Fernandez	198,629
Vice Mayor	
Bautista	335,105
Angeles	201,197
Congressmen	
District 1	
Calalay	64,776
Samson	33,980
District 2	
Mathay	127,608
Castelo	78,389
District 3	
Defensor	28,919
Coseteng	20,780
District 4	
Daza	27,856
Lagman	26,527
Mathay	23,587
PASAY CITY	
As of 4:30 p.m. (Comelec)	
Mayor	
Trinidad	25,145
Santos	13,870
Alcera	13,426
Congressman	
Dy	21,136
Briones	10,245
MAKATI CITY	
Comelec count	
Mayor	
Binay	27,206
Manzano	18,449
Vice Mayor	
Mercado	22,735
Barbers	21,669
Congressman	
Locsin	25,995
Siguion-Reyna	9,969
MARIKINA CITY	
As of 12:58 p.m.	
Mayor	
Fernando	82,558
Candazo	51,618
Vice Mayor	
Andres	66,496
Paulite	24,836
Congressman	
De Guzman	53,487
Farcon	32,476
PASIG CITY	
As of 9:47 a.m.	
Mayor	
Eusebio	87,572
Raymundo	14,521
Vice Mayor	
Bernardo	63,749
Lipana	40,072
Congressman	
Lanot	45,363
Carino	45,364
LAS PINAS	
As of 2 p.m. (Comelec)	
Mayor	
Aguilar	80,930
Quilatan	9,803
Congressman	
Villar	48,689
Tamayo	29,459
PARANAQUE CITY	
As of 12 noon	
Mayor	
Marquez	81,300
Olivares	66,157
VALENZUELA CITY	
As of 10:15 a.m.	
Mayor	
Carlos	51,805
de Guzman	33,294
Vice Mayor	
Espiritu	42,554
Lucas	25,875
Candido	20,940
Congressman	
District 1	
Gatchalian	16,806
Dalag	10,175
District 2	
Gunigundo	28,100
Serapio	14,629

Don't blame Comelec, Mandaluyong bet told

By Agnes E. Donato

THE COMMISSION on Elections chair in Mandaluyong City yesterday denied the allegation of a losing mayoral candidate that the electoral body was involved in the alleged massive fraud in the local election.

Lawyer Ma. Anne Lacuesta said she had not even seen the partial results of the Comelec count, as the local Comelec office was responsible only for the preparations for the elections.

Lacuesta added, however, that there was nothing new in the allegations of losing mayoral aspirant Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo.

"This has always been the case every time there is an election," the lawyer said. "Losing candidates accuse everyone of cheating and blame the Comelec for their defeat."

Lacuesta claimed that she could not have been involved in a conspiracy with incumbent Mayor Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr.

"I don't know the mayor personally," she said. "The first and only time I got to meet him was when he filed his certificate of candidacy."

The local Comelec chief maintained that she even tried to refuse her assignment to Mandaluyong last August, as the city was not accessible from her residence.

"I got really hurt that the Domingos should accuse the Comelec of scheming against them," she said. "I tried to be as fair to everyone as possible."

Lacuesta said the reason she was not able to entertain Domingo and his sister, congressional bet Angie Domingo-Buan, on Thursday morning was that, she was distributing the honoraria for the teachers who worked for the Comelec during the elections.

"I was very busy then and I did not want to be disturbed," Lacuesta said. "They probably misinterpreted that, so they started telling people that the Comelec had already been bought."

Domingo has formally asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in Mandaluyong. He accused Abalos of massive vote-buying, terrorism and disenfranchisement of voters. *With a report from Pamela S. Santos*

KALAYAAN Ave., QUEZON CITY
AKBAYAN

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE DIRTY WORK

Using sticks and bare hands, members of Akbayan Youth try to remove campaign posters and stickers still covering Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City.

A transformed GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AT FIRST, many citizens thought she was just acting, doing it for show, without sincerity. After all, she was born with a silver spoon because her father, although born to a peasant family, was already a congressman.

Before her transformation, she was overbearing, a result perhaps of being born rich. She once went to the INQUIRER offices to confront an editor about an adverse publicity about her. She practically threw at the editor's face a copy of the issue, which featured her in a bad light.

But Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has changed drastically since she became President of the Republic. From a seemingly spoiled brat she has become humble and conciliatory to her detractors. So very different from her predecessor who became even more haughty when he took over the No. 1 position of the land.

When she visited the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila for the first time after she assumed office, a squatter family whom she wanted to visit rebuffed President Macapagal. But this did not daunt her.

She returned for a second visit to the Smokey Mountain, an Erap stronghold. This time, she was already well received because the residents realized she is sincere in reaching out to them.

She has also extended a hand of reconciliation to the opposition and to the poor who took part in the May 1 siege to Malacañang.

Let's hope she maintains her magnanimity for the unity of the nation.

When your friends are sad, you share their sadness; when they're happy, you feel the same. Such is true friendship.

I sympathize with my friends who lost in the May 14 elections. And I share the elation of friends who won.

One of my unlucky friends is Lepeng Wee, controversial businessman of Zamboanga City, who lost to Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat. I feel very sad over his defeat. More so, because I was in Zamboanga to give him moral support in the last two days of his campaign.

Wee is one of a kind. He's so kindhearted, generous and sincere other people take advantage of him.

A self-made multi-millionaire, Wee was tagged a drug lord by a police intelligence officer after he refused to give him money to bet on cockfights. The police officer had learned that Wee was generous to the poor and the downtrodden that came to him for financial assistance.

Would you believe Wee would add to the ransom money of some kidnap victims because their relatives said they were short of reaching the ransom demand? I should know because I was privy to some kidnapping incidents where Wee got involved in the release of the victims.

"Mon, I'm just giving back to God what He has so generously given to me," he told me, justifying his over-generosity.

The over-eagerness of this former department store *tindero* (vendor) to give is often misunderstood. In part, because he's Chinese and a Johnny-come-lately to the elite circle in Zamboanga City.

Wee ran against Lobregat, his godmother at his renewal of wedding vows to his wife Araceli in 1995, because he was fed up with the harassment from the mayor and her son Celso.

The Lobregats harassed Wee because they felt insecure about him. Wee was building farm-to-market roads in the city's remote barangays using money from his pocket.

You'll ask, why would a person be crazy enough to do that when he was not even a government official? Wee was doing it out of gratitude to President Erap for appointing him consultant for Mindanao economic affairs.

The same ingenuousness did Wee in when ran for mayor of Zamboanga City.

I hope that Wee doesn't become bitter toward his fellowmen as a result of his ignominy.

The same wish goes to Edu Manzano, my *compadre*, who is losing to Jejomar Binay in the Makati mayoral race.

But I also share the joy of the victories of former Davao Oriental Gov. Francisco Rabat and Lubao, Pampanga Mayor Lilia Pineda. Rabat was winning in the mayoral race for Mati, the capital of Davao Oriental. Pineda was leading with the most number of votes for the Pampanga provincial board.

Canvassing of election returns has been stopped in Tacloban City after the camp of reelectionist congressman Alfredo Romualdez complained of vote buying and terrorism.

My gad! How could the camp of broadcaster Ted Failon, Romualdez's rival, engage in vote buying and terrorism when it's not in power? Failon earlier complained that Romualdez was buying votes left and right.

The Comelec office in Tacloban City dismissed the complaint. But the Romualdez camp elevated its complaint to the Comelec main office in Manila.

Failon was leading Romualdez in the unofficial Namfrel count by 6,000 votes, with votes from only 55 more precincts still not counted.

The Comelec should not delay the canvassing of votes under pain of being suspected of being paid by the Romualdezes.

For allegedly being so corrupt and inefficient, the customs collector of the Cebu port, Marcial Lopez, has been yanked out of his post, according to my spies at the Bureau of Customs.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva must be red in the face because Lopez is his protégé. Villanueva had insisted in placing Lopez at the Cebu port, a principal port, from the Legaspi City port, a second-rate port, despite the fact Lopez was the subject of graft complaints.

My sources say Lopez, who took over the Cebu port only last January, allowed rice smuggling under his nose.

There are many other corrupt and inefficient customs officials like Lopez although their corruption is not as blatant.

Asistio supporters...

(From page 19)

Baby Asistio is trailing Malonzo—45,093 to 36,666— in the hotly contested mayoral race, according to partial unofficial results from the National Movement for Free Elections.

Boy Asistio has a slim lead over Councilor Edgar Erice in the congressional race for Caloocan's second district, based on Namfrel figures.

Yet even with the split results, Asistio loyalists refused to accept the Namfrel tally.

"We don't trust Namfrel anymore," Manalang said. "They are counting first the votes (for the) politicians that they support."

For Asistio supporters, the tally of the Movement for Better Assistance, a parish-based support group, reflected the "real" election figures.

In the MBA tally for the city's district 2, Boy Asistio edged out Erice, 48,251 to 47,276, while Baby Asistio defeated Malonzo, 62,402 to 57,257.

But Malonzo believes he and Erice have posted landslide victories over the Asistio brothers, based on his own count.

As of 10:45 a.m. yesterday, Malonzo claimed he was leading Baby Asistio, 159,204 to 129,617, while Erice had 50,502 against Boy Asistio's 48,565.

Even before the official Commission on Elections canvassing could begin the other day, Malonzo had already claimed victory with a fireworks display.

Yesterday, Malonzo's men scattered posters showing the results of his own count. One of the posters pasted on the Namfrel tally board misled residents into believing he had actually won.

The mayor also thanked Caloocan residents for "trusting him again," with a streamer at the Monumento Circle.

This drew the ire of Asistio loyalists.

"He's making it appear he has won but he has not," Asistio supporter Luring Atanacio said. "Why doesn't (Malonzo) just accept his defeat. The people do not want him anymore. There were a lot of anomalies at City Hall during his term."

The loyalists said if the counting were clean, the Asistios would be runaway winners.

"I hope Malonzo's men will not cheat in the counting," Atanacio said.

Nette Luberiano, another Asistio loyalist, said: "We're sick and tired of Malonzo."

On Wednesday night, tension gripped City Hall as about 200 Asistio loyalists trooped to the area. The protesters were generally silent, but some were chanting "Ibalik si Erap, pabagsakin si Malonzo (Bring back Estrada, bring down Malonzo)."

Some were threatening to storm the City Hall.

Director Edgar Aglipay, police election supervisor for Metro Manila, had to go to the area to appease Asistios' supporters.

Alma Moreno's brother ... (From page 19)

at the Olivarez Hospital.

Witness Naks Baraquir, a Marquez supporter, identified the suspect in Lacsamana's stabbing as Dionisio Sanchez, 46, brother of Rolando.

Initial police investigation showed that the stabbing occurred about 3:25 a.m. outside the Parañaque Sports Complex Gymnasium on Del Pilar Street, where ballots in the May 14 elections were being counted.

Reports said supporters of Marquez were celebrating the "victory" of the incumbent mayor and started to light firecrackers. But supporters of Olivarez, who were camped a few meters away, jeered at the celebrations, witnesses said.

This led to a heated confrontation between the two camps. The face-off turned into a riot during which Lacsamana and Sanchez were stabbed.

Alma Moreno told the INQUIRER that she alerted her aides when she noticed Sanchez approaching her from behind.

Fearing that his sister could be in danger, Alma's brother rushed to her side but was allegedly stabbed by Dionisio.

Lacsamana is now being treated at an undisclosed hospital.

Moreno claimed she has been getting death threats from their rivals who accused her of cheating in the elections.

She denied involvement in any election irregularity.

Police are still investigating the stabbing.

Peña: I am not being sacked

METRO Manila police chief Romeo Peña yesterday vehemently denied rumors that he is about to be sacked from his post after he was hospitalized Sunday.

Peña, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), was rumored to be on the way out because of health problems and alleged lackluster performance as Metro Manila police chief.

The rumors got nastier after the police deputy director general underwent a medical check-up on Sunday.

"I want to assure everyone that my temporary confinement did not in any way diminish my administration of the NCRPO," Peña said in a press statement.

"I was in regular contact with my officers, who took direct orders from me from my hospital room," his statement said. "I will be ready to report to my office in due time."

He said the PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, himself denied the rumors during a news conference on Thursday.

Peña replaced high-profile Director Edgar Aglipay as metro police chief after People Power II in January. *Philip C. Tubeza*

New World Hotel man slain in QC ambush

By Philip C. Tubeza

NEW World Hotel chief steward Fernando Lozada was killed, his 17-year-old daughter was injured and a family friend was left in critical condition after unidentified men ambushed Lozada's car in Quezon City Thursday night.

Lozada, 48, of 49 Ferdinand St., Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Rizal, died after unidentified men fired at his Mitsubishi Lancer (TKM 265) along Araneta Avenue, said investigator PO3 Diosdado Pedronan of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Lozada's 17-year-old daughter was wounded by glass splinters while their family friend Marian Uson, 18, of 1 GM Townhouse, Nueve de Pebrero, Mandaluyong City, was hit by a bullet in the head.

Uson is in critical condition, Pedronan said.

The suspects struck at 8:20 p.m. Thursday while Lozada, his daughter and their friend were on the southbound lane of Araneta Avenue, Pedronan said.

He said the suspects, who were on board two cars, flagged down Lozada's car near the corner of Araneta and Del Monte avenues.

Lozada stopped but when he saw that the suspects were armed with long and short firearms, he stepped on the gas and drove away, Pedronan said.

The suspects opened fire and went after the Lozadas, Pedronan said.

Lozada lost control of the wheel when he was hit.

Pedronan said the car rammed into the sidewalk near the corner of Araneta and Maria Clara Street in Barangay Sto. Domingo, Quezon City.

The gunmen alighted from their vehicles and fired again at Lozada's car before they sped off, Pedronan added.

He said the victims were brought to the National Orthopedic Hospital and the Capitol Medical Center.

Lozada was declared dead at 8:55 p.m. He had several gunshot wounds in the head and in other parts of the body, Pedronan said.

Lozada's body was taken to the National Bureau of Investigation for autopsy.

Pedronan said police were still trying to determine the motive behind the ambush.

FX taxi kills 8-year-old playing with marbles

JAMER Franco, 8, was playing with marbles in Quezon City when an FX taxi ran over him and crushed his skull Thursday.

Franco, of Casa Bonita Drive in Sitio Mendez, Barangay Baesa, Quezon City, was killed after taxi operator Virgilio Acosta, 39, of 29 Narra St. Southgreen Park Village, Tandang Sora, ran over him, said investigator SPO1 Jun Cuaresma of the Central Police District-Traffic Sector VI.

Acosta was driving his SHQ FX taxi (TVA-586) when the accident happened at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Cuaresma said.

He said the boy was playing with marbles on Casa Bonita Drive when the accident happened. Acosta was in Casa Bonita to look for a driver for his jeep, Cuaresma added.

"Witnesses said Acosta had just started his engine and he was not driving fast," Cuaresma said.

He said the front wheels of the taxi did not have traces of blood or evidence to show that it had run over the boy.

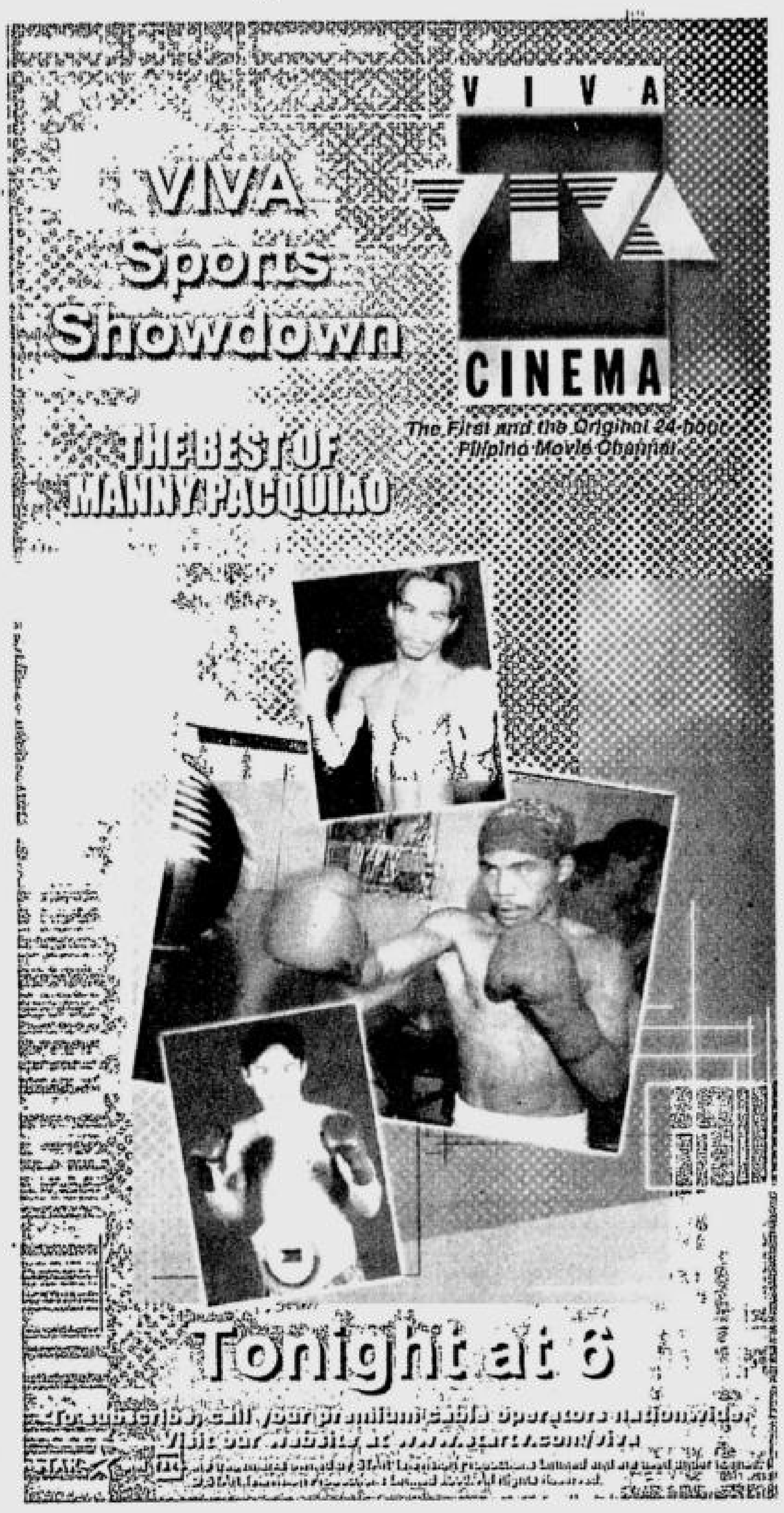
"It was the right back wheel that caught the boy," Cuaresma said.

Acosta immediately brought the boy to the Quezon City General Hospital. But the boy was declared dead on arrival at about 1 p.m., Cuaresma said.

Acosta later surrendered to police, Cuaresma added. But the boy's family reportedly would not pursue charges against him.

Cuaresma said Acosta has made a down payment of P20,000 for the boy's funeral and is willing to compensate the Franco family.

Philip C. Tubeza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Good Samaritan slashed by robbers

BY JEROME ANING

A MAN who tried to rescue two teachers who were being held up by a husband-and-wife team is in critical condition after one of the suspects slashed his abdomen with a surgical knife in Sta. Cruz, Manila late Thursday night.

Hernani Depenio, 45, married and a resident of 1638-K Antonio Rivera St., Tondo, is under observation at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz, Manila. One of the holdup victims, Jun Otsuka, 40, was also stabbed in the chest and is confined at the Chinese General Hospital.

SPO1 Eduardo Faller and SPO1 Ernesto David, both of the Western Police District's criminal investigation and detection unit, happened to be passing by when the attack happened and were able to catch Jerry Alvarado, 25, a resident of 1801 Interior Sta. Maria St., Paco, and an alleged member of the Batang City Jail gang.

Alvarado's live-in wife and alleged accomplice, Monnette, escaped, police said.

Senior Insp. Eduardo Cruz, head of the WPD theft and robbery section, said Otsuka and Marlyn Magbanua, 33, both teachers and both residents of 620 Manufacturer St., Sta. Cruz, were walking along Rizal Avenue when they were held up at about 11 p.m.

They said Alvarado and his wife approached them from behind and the husband poked a dagger at Otsuka's chest, stabbing him when he tried to resist.

Otsuka's screams for help were heard by Depenio, who rushed to the scene. But Monette, who was standing nearby as a lookout, lunged at Depenio and slashed his belly with a surgical knife, police said.

Alvarado and Monette escaped empty-handed but they were chased by SPO1 Faller and SPO1 David. Alvarado was later turned over to the WPD headquarters.

Alvarado and Monette were charged with robbery with double frustrated homicide before the city prosecutor's office.

'Father of general aviation' dies

MIGUEL Campos y Valdivia, 85, died May 9 from complications after heart surgery in Madrid.

The well-loved businessman-pilot and man of many other parts was often referred to as the country's "father of general aviation " as well as the "father of general insurance" for his major contributions in both fields.

Rising from the position of clerk in American International Underwriters (Phils.) Inc., Campos rose to become president for 27 years and chair for 16 years of what became Philippine American General Insurance Co. Inc.

As president of the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific, Campos, with his own funds, bought the land and constructed the institute's building, where insurance training seminars and conferences continue to be held.

Known to be a daredevil and stunt flyer from the time he first eased himself into a cockpit in 1941, Campos introduced and held the dealership for Beech Aircraft in the Philippines, advancing the use of light aircraft as a management tool for business. Most of the executive jets in use today in the Philippines are those purchased by CEOs from their friend Mike Campos.

By the time he stopped flying in 1990 at age 74, Campos had logged a total of 15,000 hours as pilot in command. He was a founder of the Hong Kong Flying Club and organized a goodwill fly-in to Sabah and Brunei in which 13 businessmen each flew their own aircraft.

A favorite stunt to tease his passengers out on a lark was to dive under the San Juanico Bridge connecting Samar to Leyte.

Awarded multiple Philippine citations for flying on humanitarian missions, he was given the Award for Achievement by the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations for demonstrating exemplary personal courage and piloting skill for humanitarian purposes in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1980.

The world records for non-stop flying from the Philippines to the United States and for flying around the world from Manila back to Manila in general aviation aircraft are the other signal accomplishments of Campos.

He was a founder in 1963, together with Benny Gaberman, of the Makati Stock Exchange, where he held various positions as chair of the board and as president.

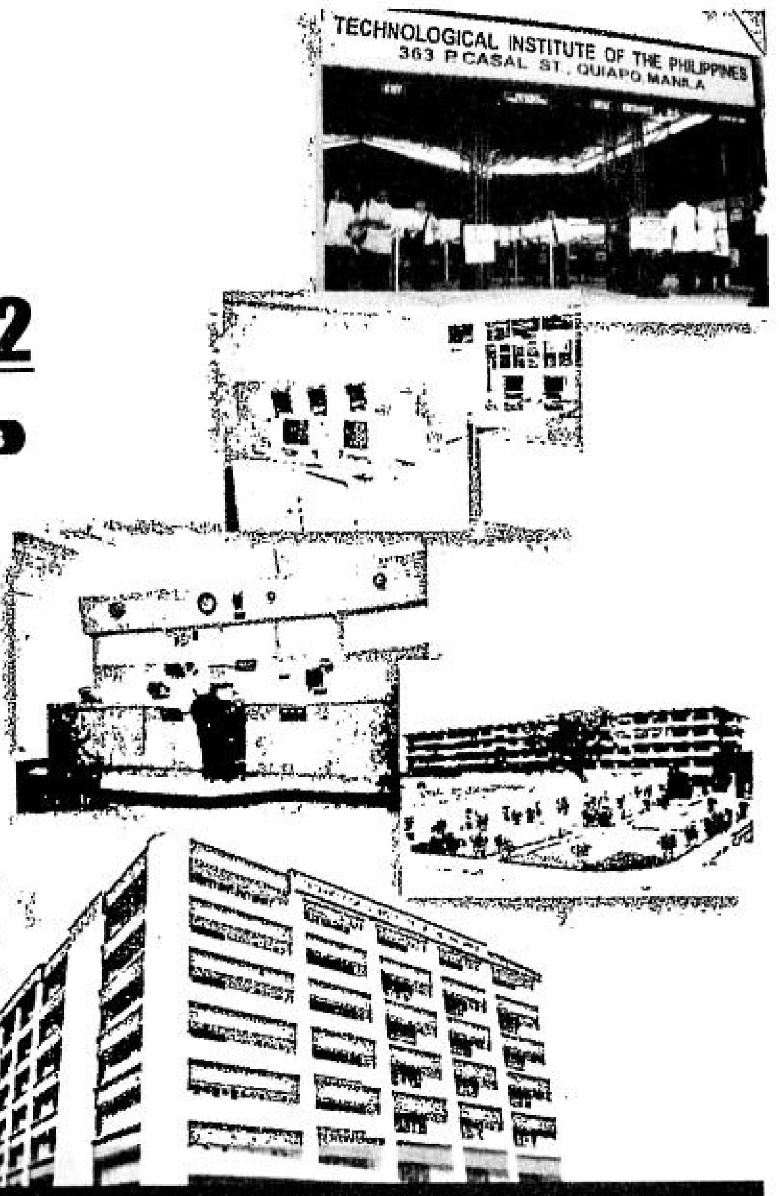
Corporate directorships were held, until the time of his death, in Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp., Travelaire and Tours Corp., Hydro Resources Contractors Corp. and Balesin Corp.

Eschewing the honorific "Don Miguel," Campos the patriot is remembered for purchasing dozens of "Tama Na, Sobra Na" and Ninoy pins daily from sidewalk vendors on Ayala Avenue between 1983 and 1986, then visiting his many friends in their offices to distribute the pins.

Throught the decades, good governance and uplifting the lot of his fellowmen were always a prime concern of Campos.

He is survived by his widow Julia Ortigas de Campos, his sister Josefina Campos de Silva, and his niece Mercedes Lanuza Ortigas.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, Mandaluyong where a funeral Mass will be held at 1 p.m. today, May 19. He will be buried in the Lanuza family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.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Mrs. Fernando takes over in Marikina

By Agnes E. Donato

MAYORAL aspirant Maria Lourdes Fernando is set to take over her husband's post in Marikina City while Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan is gearing up for a second term after the Commission on Elections proclaimed both as winners in the last electoral race.

Fernando, wife of incumbent Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando, won by a landslide, amid protests by supporters of her rival, Rep. Romeo Candazo.

The Comelec also announced the victory of Fernando's "Kabayani" partymates, congressional aspirant Del de Guzman and vice mayoral bet Marion Andres.

Comelec and members of the City Board of Canvassers finished counting about 4 a.m. yesterday.

With 83,003 votes, Mrs. Fernando toppled administration candidate Congressman Candazo who got only 51,867.

In the congressional race, incumbent Vice Mayor Del de Guzman beat her three opponents, garnering 53,487 votes.

De Guzman's closest rival was Virgilio Farcon Jr. who got 32,862 votes. Independent candidate Celso delos Angeles Jr. ranked third with 27, 862 votes.

Meanwhile, three-time councilor Marion Andres got the most votes among the three winners.

Andres gained 66,496 votes, which was almost three times that of also-ran Ma. Filomena Paulite, who had 24,836 votes.

Third-placer Joseph Banzon trailed behind with 24,328 votes.

Tito Ortiz of the People Power Coalition was the only councilor from the rival parties to make it. Ortiz, who came from the city's second district, placed third with 35,357 votes.

The only losing candidate from Fernando's party was Armando "Boyet" Espelita, who ranked eighth with 20,553 votes.

The Comelec pushed through with the proclamation of the winners, despite protests by Candazo's supporters.

Supporters of losing candidates picketed the Marikina Freedom Park on Thursday night, accusing the Comelec and city canvassers of election fraud.

The Comelec claimed the protests had no basis, as all parties were well represented during the actual election and canvassing of ballots.

In Antipolo City, incumbent Mayor Gatlabayan won over 64 percent of residents, or a total of 67,464 votes.

His opponents, Daniel Garcia and Dick Marquez, got 24,636 and 12,710 votes, respectively.

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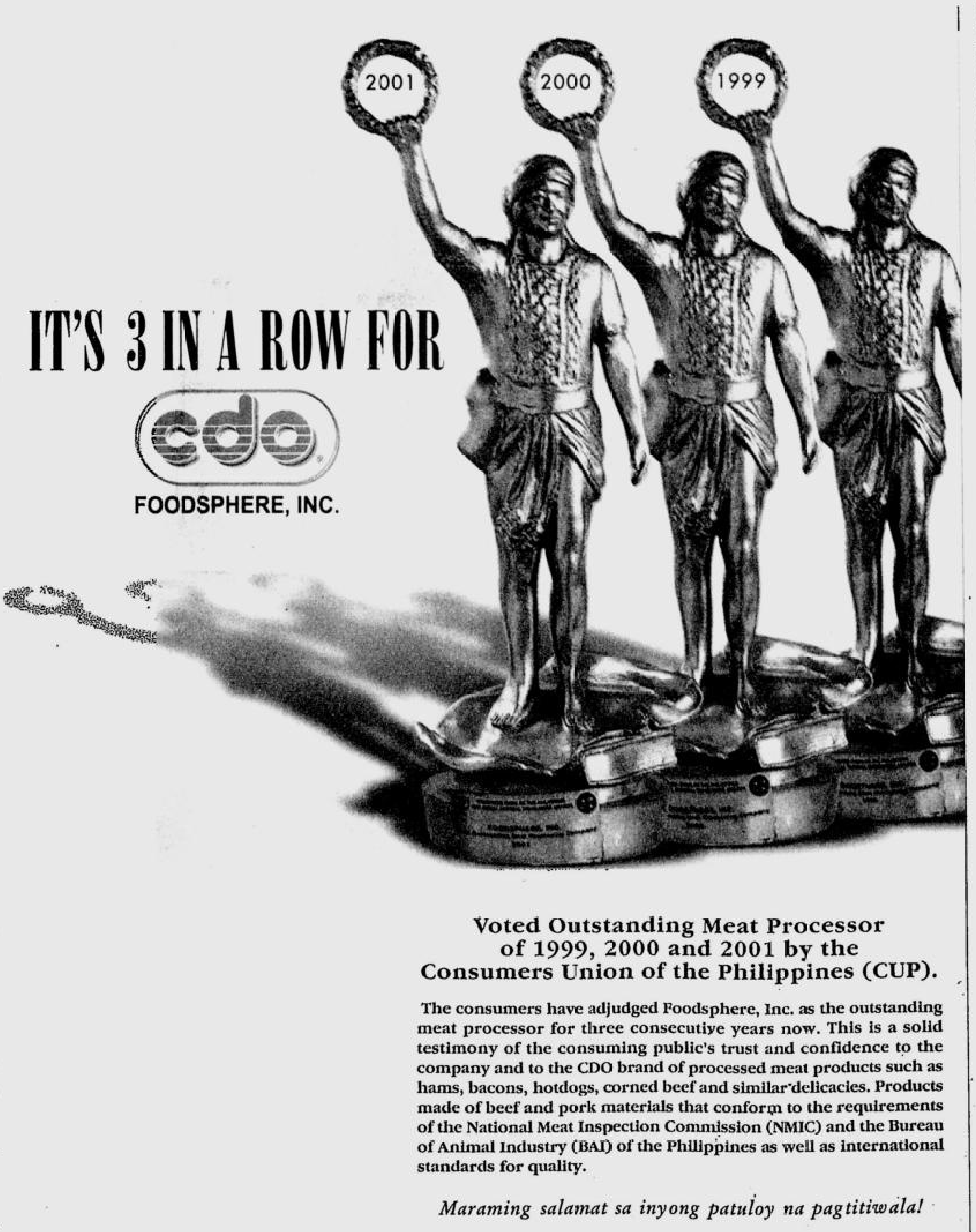
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2.	Kiss Me	Six Pence None the Richer	TONE KISSME
3.	Take On Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
4.	99 Luft Balloons	Joern Fahrenkrig-Peterson	TONE 99RED
5.	Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay/DJ Jur Gen	TONE OFFALONE
6.	What A Girl Wants	Christina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
7.	Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWRS3
8.	Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
9.	Head Over Heels	Tears For Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
10.	Bizarre Love Triangle	Frente/New Order	TONE BIZARLUV

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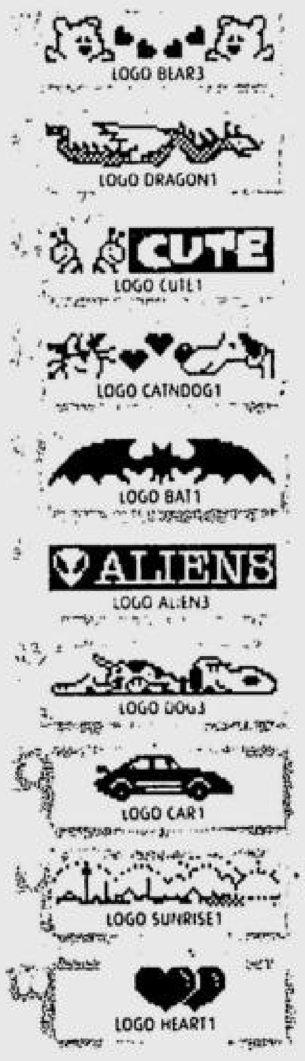
LOGO BEAR3
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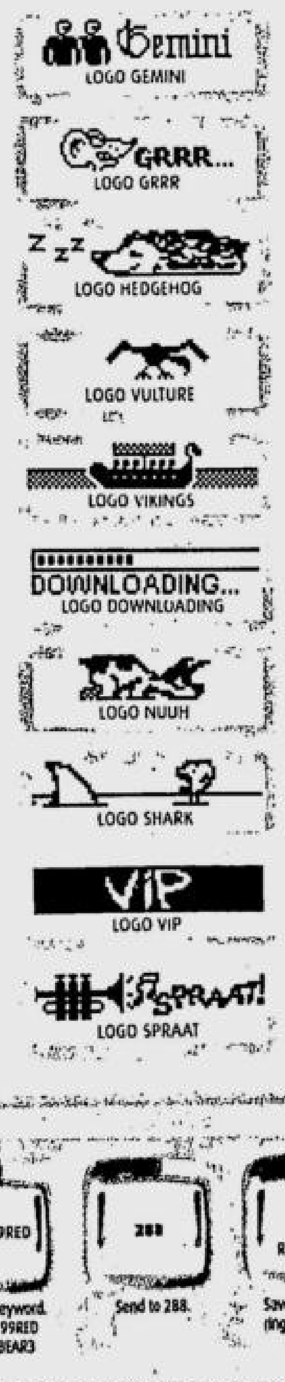
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School for Edsa kids blessed

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin on Tuesday blessed a school building for the street children of the Epifanio de los Santos-Ortigas Avenue area, where the historic Edsa Shrine is located.

The Makabata School for Street Children in Sta. Lucia, Pasig City, was built through the efforts of the Makabata Foundation. It is expected to house 104 students in the coming schoolyear, most of whom are children of street vendors living in Tramo, Rosario, Pasig City.

The school was blessed as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines agreed with Sin's apology for the Church's neglect of the poor.

"The people who participated in the so-called 'Edsa III' were the prime beneficiaries of our programs," said Msgr. Hernando "Ding" Coronel, CBCP media director. "There is a need to reassess these programs."

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, the CBCP president, said the apology of the Manila archbishop is a step in the right direction.

"The Church must be a Church of the poor," Quevedo said. "Edsa III has taught the Church a big lesson." *Norman Bordadora, Sunshine F. Yu*

Mathematics contest in Manila

MATH whiz kids from all over the world will gather in the Philippines for the Philippine Invitational World Youth Mathematics Inter-City Competition on June 8-11 at the Christian Development Foundation in Tagaytay City.

Hosted by the Mathematics Trainers' Guild and sponsored by the MSA Academic Advancement Institute, the competition brings together 25 teams from Australia, Bulgaria, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey, and 20 local teams composed of participants from various MTG training centers in Northern and Southern Luzon, the National Capital Region, Visayas and Mindanao.

Since 1996, MTG has been training gifted students from various schools nationwide in preparation for international math tournaments.

The MSA Academic Advancement Institute fully supports MTG in helping the country make a name in mathematics worldwide. MSA began as a math tutoring center in 1998. It became the MSA Tutorial and Review Center when it incorporated the tutoring of Science, English and all other subjects, plus the reviews for college and high school entrance exams of top schools and universities.

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
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4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
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3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
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8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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4 GOLD (DTS) SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE POSSESSED
6 GOLD (SDDS) DOUBLE TAKE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VALENTINE
8 [illegible] BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible] NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible] 15 MINUTES

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3 (DTS) THE MEXICAN
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5
6 (DTS)
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2 (DTS) 15 MINUTES
3 THE GIFT

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2 PILAK
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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2 SPY KIDS
3 PILAK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) VALENTINE
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(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 BALIKTARAN
2 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4 RESERVE
5 POSSESSED
6 SPY KIDS
7 VALENTINE
8 PILAK

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2 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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A DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

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2 KUNG LILIGAYA KA...
3 PILAK
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2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 BALIKTARAN
5 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6 PILAK
7 (DTS) SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS) VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY) POSSESSED

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2 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

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1 PILAK
2 BALIKTARAN
3 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 (SDDS) SPY KIDS
5 POSSESSED
6 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS
7 (DTS) VALENTINE
8 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9 RESERVE

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1 (DTS) VALENTINE
2 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 SPY KIDS
4 BALIKTARAN
5 (SDDS) POSSESSED
6 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
7 (DOLBY) EXIT WOUNDS
8 PILAK

Ortigas
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2 BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS) ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
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5 (SDDS) EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
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2 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3 RESERVE
4 SPY KIDS

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1
2 PILAK

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2 VALENTINE
3 POSSESSED
4 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5 PILAK

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2 SPY KIDS
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4 DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5 RESERVE
6 KUNG LILIGAYA KA

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4
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4 BALIKTARAN

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3 SPY KIDS
4 (DTS) PILAK

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2 BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS) ANTI TRUST
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2 SPY KIDS
3 SUGAR & SPICE

Olivarez Los Baños
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3 SAY IT ISN'T SO
4 SUGAR & SPICE

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1 THEY NEST
2 PILAK

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1 PILAK
2 BALIKTARAN
3
4

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
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NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	VALENTINE
ODEON-2	POSSESSED
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
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CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-7	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VALENTINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-12	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-14	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-15	EXIT WOUNDS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-2	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-4	VALENTINE
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Adventures in poll watching

By Mario Cornejo

CONGRESSMAN
COUNCILORS
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COUNCILORS
DISTRICT V
CONGRESSMAN
COUNCILORS

UPDATING numbers at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

I CAN never sleep at night. Recently, I had a truly inspired idea. Why not make the most of my insomnia by guarding democracy while the rest of the country sleeps?

Instead of watching infomercials till dawn, I can be a poll watcher, or at least some guy who watches while other people count. Only another insomniac can appreciate how exciting this idea is.

Since I am politically retarded and had only a vague idea of where to go, I called a friend whose dad is running for party-list representative and asked if I could accompany him while he made his rounds of the various polling precincts.

We agreed to meet at 8 p.m. Sure enough, come 10 p.m., he was still nowhere to be found.

I took my life into my own hands. I surged blindly forward into the night, armed only with paper, pencil and an incredibly poor sense of direction.

Don't trust the food

10:40 p.m. Namfrel HQ, La Salle Greenhills.

Parking was easy, people were friendly. I arrived just in time to see a young man who was clutching his belly while he was being loaded into an ambulance.

Suddenly fearful of my life, I interrogated a nearby military guy. "What happened?" I asked. "Food poisoning," he replied.

It seems around a dozen volunteers and security men ate a bad batch of anonymously donated food. Sensing a conspiracy, I asked if they had any suspects. The military guy looked at me thoughtfully.

"*Siguro ho yung pan de sal,*" he said.

I nodded gravely and left the man to do his job.

Lesson number one in pollwatching survival: Don't trust the food.

Mini-mall

I expected to be in sweltering heat, surrounded by beleaguered teachers tirelessly counting ballots and such. Being the political dunce that I am, I didn't know that counting was done elsewhere, and Namfrel — the National Movement for Free Elections — just added the tallies from the different precincts.

To my surprise, the Namfrel HQ was like a mini-shopping mall. The air-conditioning was very cold. There was a 24-hour Delifrance at the cafetiria, as well as designer coffee. There were blind masseuses for hire, and eight free Internet stations (One 12-year-old kid with a Namfrel ID was definitely cruising for porn). Countless banners from corporate sponsors were hanging on the wall, giving the place a concert-like atmosphere.

> The Namfrel HQ was like a mini-shopping mall — a Delifrance, designer coffee, blind masseuses for hire, and free Internet stations

After soaking in the vibe for a few minutes, I tried to get into the spirit of things. I called to a volunteer behind a fenced-in area: "Who's winning?"

"In the area I'm handling, De Castro," she answered. I made a note of the time, 11 p.m.

11:20 p.m. I asked again, "Who's winning now?" The volunteer looked at me strangely. "It's still De Castro," she said. I knew then drastic measures would have to be taken before boredom set in.

Following the advice of various self-help books and motivational speakers, I set some goals for myself. Be seen on television, meet a celebrity, find a cute girl. Don't leave until I've done all three.

Achieving goals

Not five minutes after setting my goals, action began to heat up. Mr. Joe Con was being interviewed by IBC-13. Affecting an inquisitive, journalistic air, I positioned myself slightly behind and to the left of him, trying not to look into the camera. It worked! I was on TV!

I was heartened by my early success. I tried to hit two birds with one stone by talking to the man himself. After all, he is a sort of celebrity in his own right, and to talk to him would qualify as achieving goal number two.

When one member of the press asked him about the food poisoning incident, I saw my opening and grabbed it. Clutching my trusty pen and paper, and hoping beyond all hope that I at least looked the part of a legitimate journalist, I asked my question.

"Sir, where did you have dinner tonight?"

He paused and stared at me, then answered quite graciously. "Normally I eat downstairs with everyone else, but I had a vegetarian guest who wanted to eat out, so we had our dinner outside."

I nodded gravely for the second time that night, then turned to hide my smile. Two objectives down, one to go!

I checked my watch: 11:30 p.m. The night was full of possibilities.

Two hours later I was bored beyond belief. No big surprises on the election returns, everyone standing was the same as when I arrived. And I had not spotted a single cute girl. I thought I saw Plinky Recto but that turned out to be a false alarm.

Settling halfheartedly on a production assistant from GMA-7, I chalked her up as goal number three and went on my way. After all, I wanted to be where the votes were actually being counted.

Who's counting?

2:15 a.m. Makati City Hall.

After driving around for close to an hour, I finally arrived at the Makati City Hall, which looked downright deserted. I asked where the counting was, and someone pointed me toward the Valenzuela Sports Complex nearby.

Here was the dreary gym I had imagined, complete with ballot boxes and poll watchers, most of them, unfortunately, sleeping.

Apparently counting ended at about 10:30 p.m. and would resume the next morning.

I asked if anything exciting happened during the day.

One of the policemen guarding the area said that a domestic dispute happened right outside and that the PNP had to step in. Apparently two women were screaming at each other and threatening to tear each other apart.

Sensing another conspiracy, I asked who was watching the ballots while this was going on.

The policeman gave me another strange look, one of many I'd received that night. Maybe my questions were throwing people off.

Back to infomercials

2:30 a.m. Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila.

Same story. Counting ended at about 10 p.m., would resume in the morning.

3 a.m. Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City.

Ditto.

3:30 a.m. Commission on Elections HQ, Intramuros.

Brandishing my well-worn notepad and pen and masquerading as a journalist who just forgot his press ID at home, I got through the line of military security and into the guarded area of the Comelec building. There I talked to underpaid and exhausted government workers who told me gently that no, they don't actually count the ballots there. Try the PICC.

3:45 a.m. Philippine International Convention Center.

Determined to see my exercise in freedom and futility to its bitter end, I attempted to breach the PICC security teams, who informed me that I definitely would not be allowed inside without a Comelec ID and besides, there was nothing happening inside at the moment anyway.

4 a.m. My house.

Suddenly infomercials seem like a worthwhile way to pass the time.

'Spice Boy,' Tiangco in landslide win

By Christian V. Esguerra, Paul Ernest Lazaro, and Mark Isaiah David

THE DAUGHTER of Estrada ally Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta suffered a humiliating defeat against the administration candidate in the congressional race in Malabon-Navotas.

The Commission on Election proclaimed the other night Rep. Federico Sandoval winner over Rissa Aquino Oreta with a 12,797 margin.

Sandoval, who won a second straight term, defeated the 30-year-old Oreta—41,532 to 28,735—in his hometown Navotas.

The young congressman, a member of Congress' "Spice Boys," also posted a 2,961 lead over Oreta in her Malabon bailiwick, according to partial Comelec results from 293 clustered precincts as of 12:07 a.m. yesterday.

Sandoval garnered 25,607 votes while Oreta had 22,646.

Results in Malabon and Navotas will be combined since both areas are considered one congressional district.

In the Navotas mayoral race, incumbent Tobias Tiangco of the Joseph Estrada-backed Nationalist People's Coalition won his first election against Felipe del Rosario of the People Power Coalition.

Tiangco won via landslide—46,503 to 20,710. It was his first victory as mayor since he assumed the mayoralty only after Mayor Efren Bautista died.

Tiangco's vice mayoral candidate, Lutgardo Cruz, also won.

In Malabon, incumbent Mayor Amado Vicencio seemed to be headed for a third and final term after he posted a 17,345 lead over PPC's Flerry Marcelo, according to partial Comelec results.

Vicencio's runningmate, incumbent Vice Mayor Jay Jay Yambao, was also leading the pack with 23,670 votes.

Puwersa candidates dominated Navotas polls where all but one who won as councilors in districts 1 and 2 were from PnM. Of 12 councilors in Navotas districts 1 and 2, only 1 from PPC, Edgardo Santiago, got in the winners' circle, placing sixth in District 2.

In Valenzuela, Sherwin Gatchalian, son of Estrada crony William Gatchalian, was leading Magtanggol Gunigundo, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, in the city's first congressional district.

Gatchalian, 27, had 11,230 votes against the much older Gunigundo's 5,730, according to partial unofficial results of the National Movement for Free Elections as of 11:06 a.m. yesterday.

In the second district, however, Gunigundo's son, reelectionist Rep. Magi Gunigundo was leading two other candidates as he garnered 16,181 votes.

Tony Serapio of the NPC had 10,471 while former mayor Santiago de Guzman got 5,311.

In the mayoral race, incumbent Mayor Emmanuel Carlos was heading for a third straight term with 34,464 votes. His opponents, Vice Mayor Boy de Guzman and Eli Demafelis, had 22,754 and 6,704, respectively.

'Sore losers' in south Metro

By Alcuin Papa

SOME local candidates running in cities south of Metro Manila are sore losers.

Incumbent mayors in the cities of Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Pasay are apparently on their way to winning in this year's local elections amid charges of fraud from their rivals.

Demonstrations against alleged massive cheating are being staged in these cities against the incumbent officials by their losing rivals.

In Muntinlupa, supporters of Elizabeth Aguilar-Masangkay have been protesting in front of the City Hall against cheating allegedly being perpetrated by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi. Fresnedi is leading in both the counts by the Commission on Elections and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

While Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar is burying his mayoral race opponent Daniel Quilatan, Aguilar's sister Cynthia Aguilar-Villar is also pulling away from rival Tony Tamayo.

Tamayo had also protested that he is being cheated by Aguilar, who is the wife of senatorial candidate Manny Villar. Tamayo's supporters have also been picketing the City Hall.

So far, Aguilar is leading the Comelec count with 48,689 against Tamayo's 29,459.

In Parañaque, candidate Pablo Olivarez has charged reelectionist Mayor Joey Marquez and his supporters with cheating and vote-buying.

The Parañaque mayoral race is hotly contested and both camps watch the counting closely. Violent clashes have occurred between the two camps in the last few days.

Marquez is leading in the Namfrel count with a final result of 81,300 against Olivarez' 66,157 votes.

Marquez's running mate Jun Bernabe also buried his rival Raquel Tamayo in the vice mayoral race. Bernabe has 114,468 votes in the Namfrel count against Tamayo's 29,616.

In Pasay City, reelectionist Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad is also leading against Ricardo "Ding" Santos and Vice Mayor Greg Alcera.

Alcera and Santos' supporters have been staging a People Power-like demonstration at the Cuneta Astrodome where counting is being held.

On Tuesday, poll watchers of Santos walked out of the counting alleging that Trinidad's camp had been cheating.

Supporters of Santos and Alcera have banded together to denounce the alleged cheating. They are also calling for the resignation of Trinidad and for a recount.

Police release woman caught burying 'fetus'

By Jerome Aning

MANILA police yesterday released a janitress who was suspected of being an abortionist after she was caught burying a jar containing what looked like a human fetus in Paco, Manila on Thursday.

Vivian Libre, 34, a resident of 1515 Sto. Sepulcro St., Paco, was freed after the Western Police District criminal laboratory determined that the bits of flesh and blood in the jar were not human. An aunt fetched Libre from the WPD Integrated Jail.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the WPD homicide section, ordered the test after Libre claimed that the jar's contents were pig's blood and flesh which she used in a successful experiment with her "magic powers."

A group of youths had caught Libre burying the jar in the traffic island in the middle of Quirino Avenue near its intersection with Pedro Gil Street around midnight Thursday.

Libre claimed she also placed in the jar a piece of paper with Latin incantations that were supposed to keep the pig's flesh and blood from turning into human blood and flesh.

The paper was removed when the jar's contents were tested. But crime lab director, Insp. Romeo Salen, ruled that the contents were not human.

Libre told investigators that the burying of the jar was part of a "secret ritual" taught to her by her late grandfather. The ritual was supposed to bring occult powers which could be used in fighting witchcraft.

The janitress, a zoology undergraduate, claimed she was the victim of witchcraft twice since 1998.

Taluban said Libre appeared "very convinced" about her grandfather's teachings.

"I advised her to do her ritual in a less public place so that she will not arouse the suspicion of passersby," the police major said. He said Libre could also get accidentally hit or run over by vehicles when crossing Qurino Highway.

QC house robbed while owners are in Japan

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE days after robbers broke into the home of ABS-CBN anchorman Henry Omaga-Diaz in Quezon City, more than a million pesos worth of jewelry were stolen from another house in the same city whose owners are vacationing in Japan.

The robbers broke into the apartment of Mercedita Cemia at 25-A Roces Avenue, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, on Thursday afternoon, said investigator SPO2 Rolando B. Noguerra of the Kamuning police station.

The robbers took 100 liquor bottles, six rings inlaid with pearls and diamonds, and a diamond-studded wristwatch, police said.

Cemia's neighbors discovered the robbery at about 5 p.m. Thursday, Noguerra said.

He said the robbers were able to enter the Cemia house by destroying all of the four padlocks on the apartment's main door.

Cemia's children, who occupy the apartment, had gone to Japan for a vacation when the school year ended, Noguerra said.

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CINEMA
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THE POSSESSED - P 13 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30	SPY KIDS - G 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50, 11:10
VALENTINE - R 18 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	15 MINNUTES - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SPY KIDS - G 10:30, 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:45

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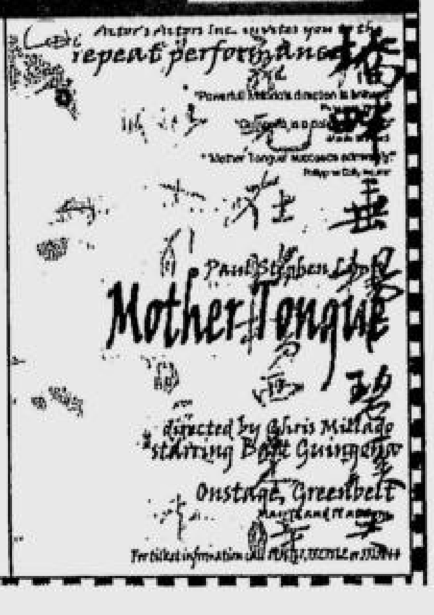

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

1st quarter imports down 7.7%

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S imports contracted for the fourth consecutive month in March, on a year-on-year basis, dragged down by the continued decline in the shipments of electronics products and components.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that Philippine imports shrunk by 5.1 percent in March this year to $2.602 billion from $2.742 billion in the same month last year.

The first quarter import figures also showed a big 7.7-percent decline to $7.27 billion from $7.876 billion in the first three months last year.

On a month-on-month, imports in March showed an 18.65-percent climb from the February level. Analysts said this could be a comforting sign that manufacturers have started looking forward to better business despite a slowdown in global demand. They, however, cautioned that the increase could only be due to a seasonal inventory build-up and unless exports begin to pick up, it was too early to declare the economy out of danger.

"It (imports) wasn't as bad as many people feared. It showed a rebound month-on-month after dipping in February . . . I guess you could take some encouragement from that," said David Cohen, an economist with S&P MMS in Singapore.

"(But) its premature to declare the downturn over, especially keeping in mind that the export numbers did show further weakening in March," he added.

The NSO data also showed that the first quarter trade yielded a higher surplus of $1.3 billion, compared to the $731 million recorded in the same period last year, but both export and import levels were down. This could be translated to a bleak outlook for the Philippine economy this year, analysts and economists said.

Total merchandise trade in the quarter fell by 4 percent to $15.83 percent compared to the year-ago level of $16.483 billion. Exports in the same period were down 0.5 percent to $8.56 billion.

With the trade performance during the quarter, Bankers Association of the Philippines chief economist Johnny Noe Ravalo said it would not be a surprise to see the country's gross domestic product growing by lower than 3 percent this year as against the 3.9 percent posted in 2000. For the first quarter of the year, he said anything above 2.5 percent (GDP growth), would be good enough considering the difficult economic environment.

Ravalo said the shrinking figures were still a spillover of the political and economic uncertainties that erupted last year. While other sectors attributed the lower trade figures to the contraction of the global demand for electronics and the slowdown in the US economy, Ravalo said these factors have yet to impact on the local economy.

"What you buy today was what the buyers and sellers agreed upon six months ago," Ravalo said. "As such, these numbers showed that the second half of 2000 was really bad due to the political uncertainties and the economic slowdown."

"But I'm expecting that the US economy will recover by the third quarter of this year so that means that we'll start doing better by the first quarter of 2002. This year is really a giveaway, a transition from economic and political woes," he said.

Mark Securities head of research Manny Cruz stressed that the continuing contraction in the country's imports was not a good sign for the economy because it could mean further slowdown in exports, an important engine of growth. Based on the first quarter trade figures, he said the first quarter GDP growth would likely be below 3 percent.

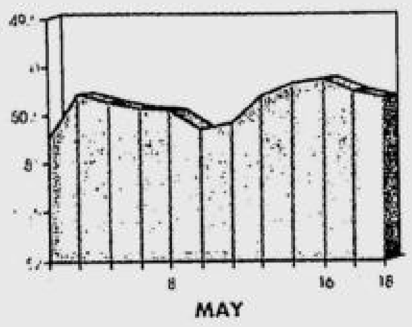
"I'm not worried about the first quarter because it's a foregone conclu-

1ST QUARTER/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

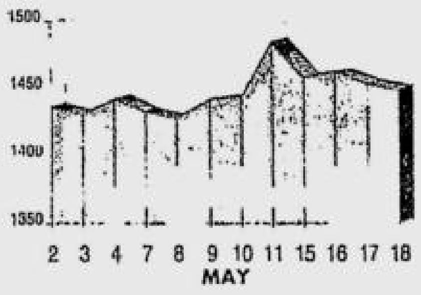
₱50.33 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 18, 2001

¥123.26 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.26 as of 5 p.m.,
May 18, 2001

GOLD:$272.30/272.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 18, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down

THE STOCK market yesterday closed slightly lower on concerns about the administration's ability to gain control of the Senate, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 4.41 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,448.62 after falling 0.6 percent Thursday to 1,453.03.

The broader All Shares Index lost a fractional 0.52 point to 764.30 after rising 6.91 points to 764.82 Thursday.

"Investors are hesitant to put money in stocks amid the seesaw battle between the administration and the opposition for control of Congress," said Henry Ong, vice president at KGI Securities Inc. *AP*

Tanduay sees 10% sales growth

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. aims to increase sales by about 10 percent this year from last year and its product volume, by 5 percent, its president Wilson Young said yesterday.

"In terms of income, we expect to at least maintain (in 2001) the income from operations of about P760 million for the year 2000," Young said.

Young did not give absolute figures.

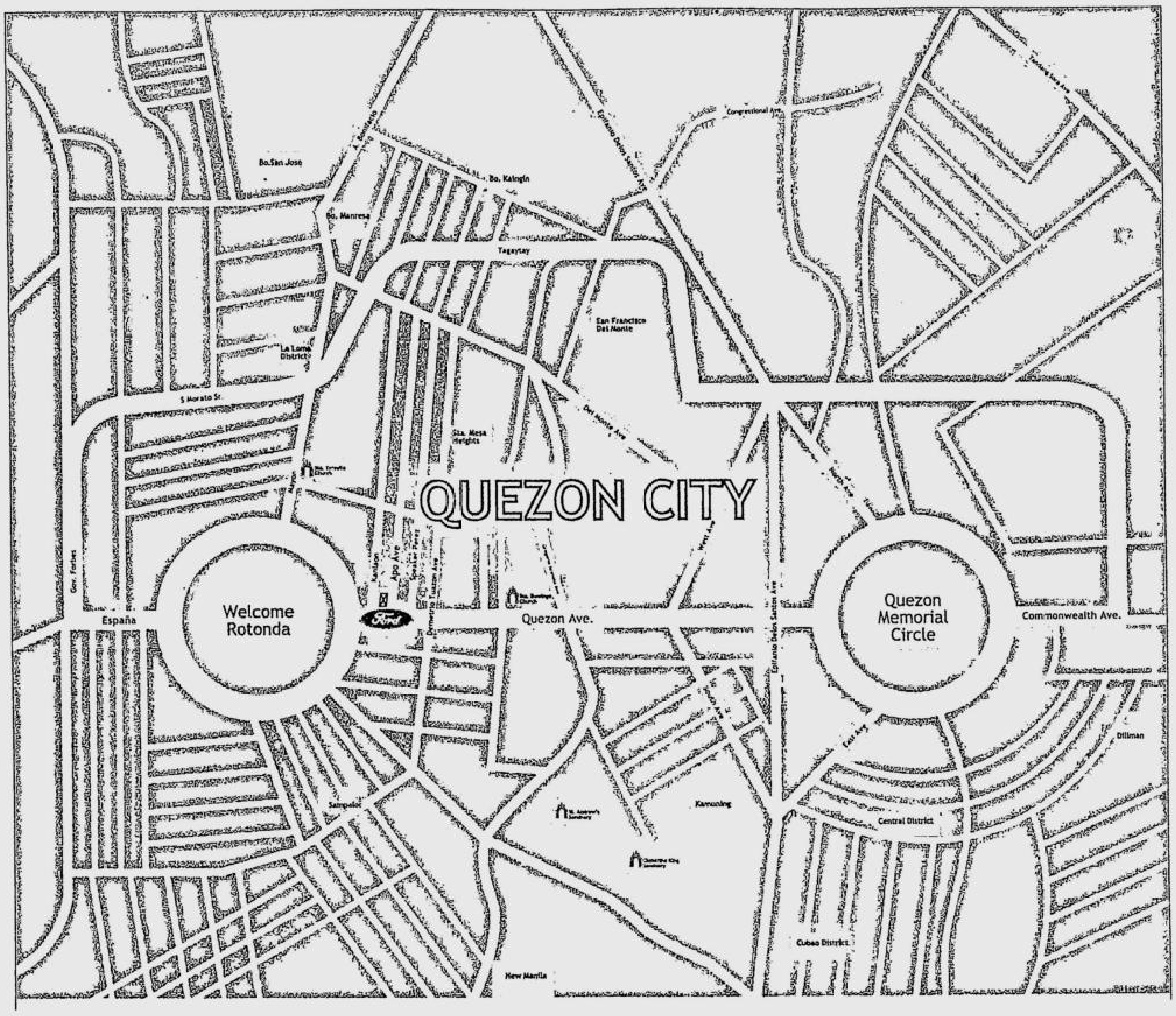
In April, the company reported a net income of ₱512.66 million for the whole of 2000 from revenues of P5.7 billion. *Reuters*

Top-level meet on competitiveness

MORE than 150 company presidents and chief executive officers are expected to attend a top-level conference on "Reposition for Global Competitiveness," sponsored by Joaquin Cunanan & Co., a member of PricewaterhouseCoopers, together with Six Sigma Consulting.

The speakers include Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Lapanday Holdings Corp. chair Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., Software Ventures International president Gil V. Guanio, Smart Communications president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno and Nokia Asia Pacific senior vice president Karl Ahola.

The conference will be held on May 22 at The Manila Peninsula Hotel.



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Bank goes after Espiritu son

By Raul C. Dancel

ALLIED Banking Corp. is moving to foreclose properties used as collateral for a P130-million loan secured by the son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu.

A source familiar with the matter said some 15.76 million shares of stocks held by a corporation in Philippine Racing Club Inc. were used as collateral for a loan extended by Allied Bank to John Anthony Espiritu in 1998.

The younger Espiritu had an "overdue loan obligation" of P129.7 million as of March this year, he said.

It was not known where the loan was used.

John Anthony Espiritu, who is currently in the United States, is being investigated by the justice department for his role in an alleged investment scam involving Westmont Investment Corp., a company his family owned.

Government regulators have accused Wincorp's directors and officers, including its former chair, John Anthony Espiritu, of violating the country's securities laws when they failed to register an investment scheme with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC accused Espiritu and Wincorp directors Henry Cua Loping, Simeon Cua, Manuel Tankiansee and Alfonso Reyno III of fraud for enticing about a thousand investors to place some P7 billion that Wincorp re-lent to companies owned by the younger Espiritu and his father's associates. These companies have defaulted on these loans.

In counter-affidavits filed with the Department of Justice, Espiritu and his directors claimed that they did not know about the investment scheme and could not be held liable for it.

They said "only corporate officers shown to have participated in or assented to the commission of the alleged illegal acts can be made answerable for alleged criminal violations of the corporation."

The SEC rejected this defense, saying those charged consented to the investment scheme.

"As responsible directors and/or officers, it is also their primary duty and responsibility to ensure that the operations of their company conformed with existing laws, rules and regulations," the commission said.

1st . . .

(From page B1)

sion that it will be weak. What is worrisome is the succeeding quarters, especially with the slowdown in the US economy and the global demand for electronics," he said.

Cruz noted that even the country's best performing electronics manufacturers like publicly listed Ionics Circuits Inc. have started feeling the pinch of the global slowdown.

Based on the NSO data, payments for imports of electronics and components, mostly used as inputs to the country's electronics exports, fell 29.1 percent to $433.95 million. This segment accounted for 16.7 percent or the biggest bulk of the total import bill. Electronics account for 60 percent of the country's exports.

Purchases of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ranked second with a 10.5-percent share. Payments made reached $273.52 million, representing a 22.3-percent decline over last year's $352.03 million.

Telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, the third top import reported purchases worth $243.09 million, or a 0.3-percent backslide from $243.80 million a year back.

Overall, capital goods—led by telecom equipment and electrical machinery—accounted for 37.2 percent of the total bill but recorded a 10.3-percent decline. Payments for raw materials and intermediate goods consisting of unprocessed and semi-processed raw materials rose by 5.85 percent year-on-year to $1.072 billion, accounting for 41.2 percent of the total bill.

Japan was the biggest source of imports during the month accounting for a 20.7-percent share of the total. It rose 15.9 percent on the year to $539.23 million in March while exports to Japan amounted to $501.37 million. *With reports from Inquirer wires*

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78.5	79	78.5	79	611,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	45	44.5	44.5	173,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	214	210	214	84,100
Prudential Bank	475	475	475	475	300
Philippine National Bank	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	74,700
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	900
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	26	26	26	26	100
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.5	20	20.5	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	53,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	247	247	247	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1305	1300	1305	8,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1060	1055	1060	5,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41	41.5	41	41.5	5,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	6,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,200,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	720	720	705	710	41,170
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.046	160,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	43	42	42	46,800
Manila Electric Co. B	58	58	56.5	56.5	125,800
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.84	5,867,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	4,663,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	135,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	1,025,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	19,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	27.5	28	41,200
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	46.5	46.5	55,600
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50	414,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	60,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.6	2,665,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	308,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	4,200
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.38	9,453,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	180,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.14	1,155,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.75	23.75	69,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.25	47,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.06	2.08	402,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	18,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	1,550,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	290,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.67	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Music Corp	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	188,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	40,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	41	42	41	41.5	1,187,300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	8,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	695	695	695	695	5,800
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Omico Corp Warrant Omw	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.038	0.039	0.036	0.038	77,400,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	4,000
Far Eastern University	370	370	370	370	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,595,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	2,750,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.3	2.22	2.24	8,347,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6,762,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	120,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	2,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	3,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	22,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,031,000	95,396,310.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	282,303,480	198,353,565.00
PRO	25,164,000	80,549,760.00
Mining	35,180,000	1,033,200.00
OIL	65,530,000	539,900.00
GRAND TOTALS :	409,208,480	375,872,735.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	622.02	DOWN 0.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,987.13	DOWN 6.34
PRO	561.57	DOWN 7.91
Mining	1,171.45	UP 13.41
OIL	1.41	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	764.82	UP 6.91
Composite	1,453.03	DOWN 8.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,356

CURRENCIES

May 18, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132631	1.000000	50.1620
Japan	Yen	0.009252	0.008169	0.4098
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623174	1.433100	71.8872
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145212	0.128208	6.4312
Switzerland	Franc	0.651386	0.575109	28.8486
Canada	Dollar	0.737871	0.651466	32.6788
Singapore	Dollar	0.628018	0.554477	27.8137
Australia	Dollar	0.598137	0.528095	26.4903
Bahrain	Dinar	3.004486	2.652661	133.0628
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302010	0.266645	13.3754
Brunei	Dollar	0.626282	0.552944	27.7368
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024976	0.022051	1.1061
UAE	Dirham	0.308409	0.272294	13.6588
Korea	Won	0.000870	0.000768	0.0385
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.882900	44.2880
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.45142	22.6441
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134597	6.7517
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.400643	20.0971
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064163	3.2185
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021887	1.0979
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000456	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148493	7.4487
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004404	0.2209
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005306	0.2662
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.021887	1.0979
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.121052	56.2342

MANILA BANKERS LIFE'S

"20th Century Breakthrough" Awardees

Champion Awards

from left:
Underwriter of the Year
ROLANDO T. SAAC
Galeos District - Visayas

Manager of the Year
ROMEO P. GALEOS, JR.
Galeos District - Visayas

Associate Manager of the Year
LEONORE C. ATUN
Pancho District - BSTA

Margarita I. Punzalan
Punzalan District - MMSO
1st Runner-Up
Managers Category

Arturo S. Pancho, Jr.
Pancho District - BSTA
2nd Runner-Up
Managers Category

Nancy G. Bailon
Marbella District - BSTA
1st Runner-Up
Underwriters Category

Concepcion L. Paunel
Galeos District - Visayas
2nd Runner-Up
Underwriters Category

Leonivilla P. Pepania
Hernandez District -Visayas
3rd Runner-Up
Underwriters Category

Onesimo L. Jusay
Batac District - BSTA
1st Runner-Up
Associate Managers Category

The awarding ceremony was held in Baguio City during a 4-day Convention last March 27-31, 2001. Today, Manila Bankers Life celebrates its 34th anniversary with simple rites at its main office in Ayala Avenue awarding 17 employees who have served the company for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years.

Growth Achievement Awards

FOUNDER'S AWARDS

Managers Category

Posedio C. Hernandez
Hernandez District - Visayas
1st Runner-Up

Linda A. Marbella
Marbella District - BSTA
2nd Runner-Up

Alberta R. Hernandez
Hernandez District - Mindanao
3rd Runner-Up

Citation:

Narciso C. Manalili
Manalili District - NMA

Associate Managers Category

Onesimo L. Jusay
Batac District - BSTA
1st Runner-Up

Edwin Y. Deliezo
Galeos District - Visayas
2nd Runner-Up

Citation:

Jane S. Ponciano
Manalili District - NMA

CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS

Managers Category

Sancho T. Beldad
Beldad Dist. - Mindanao
1st Runner-Up

Orlando J. Aninipot
Aninipot Dist. - BSTA
2nd Runner-Up

Citation:

Estrella U. Ramas
Ramas Dist. - MMSO

Underwriters Category

Rolando T. Saac
Galeos Dist. - Visayas
1st Runner-Up

Concepcion L. Paunel
Galeos Dist. - Visayas
2nd Runner-Up

Nancy G. Bailon
Marbella Dist. - BSTA
3rd Runner-Up

Janet A. Coop
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO
4th Runner-Up

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Managers Category

Ricardo P. Batac
Batac Dist. - BSTA
1st Runner-Up

Jose V. Tomada
Tomada Dist. - Visayas
2nd Runner-Up

Remedios C. Cruz
R. Cruz Dist. - MMSO
3rd Runner-Up

Citations:

Pricilla C. Beltran
Beltran Dist. - Mindanao

Merly A. Sarong
Sarong Dist.-Mindanao

Hermilina F. Martin
Martin Dist. - MMSO

Quirico R. Candilosas, Jr.
Candilosas Dist.-BSTA

Ricardo M. Poblador
Poblador Dist. - MMSO

Underwriters Category

Hercy R. Pardinas
Pancho Dist. -BSTA
1st

Leonivilla P. Pepania
Hernandez Dist. -Visayas
2nd

Jessica Y. Magtarayo
Punzalan Dist. -MMSO
3rd

Ildefonso R. Punzalan
Punzalan Dist. -MMSO
4th

Lourdes M. Icasiano
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO
5th

Expectacion A. Garzon
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO
6th

Susana B. Perong
Beldad Dist. - Mindanao
7th

Aida M. Castillo
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO
8th

Pacita C. Podadera
Hernandez Dist.-Mindanao
9th

Russel R. Rusiana
Galeos Dist.-Visayas
10th

Clarissa R. Red
Batac Dist. - BSTA
11th

Dojeson D. Labitag
Batac Dist. - BSTA
12th

Laarni F. Malazarte
Marbella Dist. - BSTA
13th

Joel M. Moleje
Beldad Dist. - Mindanao
14th

Edilberto A. Vibal
Marbella Dist. - BSTA
15th

Jesus C. Cornel
Orobia Dist. - BSTA
16th

Grace Socorro B. Molina
Beltran Dist. - Mindanao
17th

Francisco D. Pasiculan
Galeos Dist. - Visayas
18th

Jorelyn M. Gonzaga
Galeos Dist. - Visayas
19th

Marcelino B. Montemayor
Beldad Dist. - Mindanao
20th

Rosabella M. Arena
Aninipot Dist. - BSTA
21st

Editha S. Lemente
Sarong Dist. - Mindanao
22nd

Danilo T. Joaquin
Escolastico Dist. - NMA
23rd

Rowan A. Marbella
Marbella Dist. - BSTA
24th

Leonora A. Resolis
Escolastico Dist. - NMA
25th

Arlyn D. Ello
Beldad Dist. - Mindanao
26th

Elena T. Azarraga
Hernandez Dist. - Visayas
27th

Julita R. Malazarte
Ramas Dist. - MMSO
28th

Marybell L. Pacara
Galeos Dist. - Visayas
29th

Normalita M. Ragay
Marbella Dist. - BSTA
30th

Gabriel A. S. Bayona
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO
31st

Susana L. San Miguel
Batac Dist.- BSTA
32nd

Anabel B. Abroguena
Hernandez Dist. - Mindanao
33rd

Belinda T. Ranoja
Hernandez Dist. - Mindanao
34th

Citations:

Tricia M. Punzalan
Punzalan Dist. - MMSO

Vengie B. Atun
Pancho Dist.-BSTA

Normita Z. Martin
Martin Dist. - MMSO

Aileen G. Lopez
Aninipot Dist. - BSTA

Floro M. Vergara
Distor Dist. - MMSO

Babes P. Decena
Pancho Dist. - BSTA

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NOTICE of loss the following shares of stock WILLIAM C. LIU have been declared lost BPI cert. nos. 129567 /129568

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

The following shares of stock of WILLIAM C. LIU have been declared lost : BPI certificate nos. 129567 /129568
(PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

Notice is given to the public on the loss of **Alabang Country Club Stock Certificate No. B-279 in the name of Singer Sewing Machine Company.** If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City will hold an auction sale on •MAY 26, 2001• at 9:00 AM including all items pawned up to December 2000
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **ENRIQUE M. BRODETH** was settled extrajudicially by an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by the sole heir, as per Doc. No. 605, Page No. 40, Book No. II, Series of 2001 of Quezon City Notary Public Atty. Arturo M. Martin.
(PDI-May 19, 26 & Jun 2, '01)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following certificates of stocks in the name of **ROSITO C. MANHIT** have been declared lost. 1 share Quezon City Sports Club, 1 share Valley Golf and Country Club, 1 share Valle Verde Country Club and 2 Security Bank Stock Certificates Numbers 188 & 331.
(PDI-May 12,19& 26, 2001)

PERSONAL

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O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

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INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Pool-ish game

Q. Why is a game of pocket billiards called "pool?"

A. The name refers to the pool of bets on the game. Originally, players and onlookers in billiard halls and other gambling houses placed their wagers in a common pool wen betting on a game. In fact, "poolroom" originally meant any gambling parlor, including the ones in which billiards was played. Seeing the game of billiards being played in places called poolrooms led people to mistakenly refer to the game itself as "pool."

For the Record. Billiards is rooted in a 15th-century French game called *palle-maille*, which was played on grass or straw. When the first billiards tables were made, the surface was given the look of grass, thus today's standard green color.

Quote in the Act. In one of his many title defenses, heavyweight immortal Joe Louis, knocked to the canvas by his opponent's surprise left, jumped to his feet before the referee began the count. "I keep telling ya to take the count when you're knocked down so you can bide time," Louis's trainer admonished him later. "Why didn't you stay down for nine like I've always taught you?" Growled Louis, "And let the other guy get all that rest?" Another ring legend, the incomparable Muhammad Ali, was once asked by someone, irritated by Ali's constant boasts of "I am the greatest," how Ali performed at golf. "I'm the best," replied Ali. "I just haven't played it yet."

WORD WATCH

Bolero : Tagalog slang for "trickster, deceiver," from the Spanish *bolero*, "liar."

PDI – May 19, 2001

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The Public Bidding will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 28, 2001 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-qualification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Annex Bldg., SRA Compound starting May 21, 2001.

Bid forms at Php 1,000.00/set shall be issued by the Secretariat to pre-qualified bidders on June 13, 2001.

A Pre-bid conference shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on June 20, 2001.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond either in Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or GSIS bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality/or defect therein and accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI--May 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Quezon City

Invitation for Accreditation of Independent Private Appraisal Companies

The National Housing Authority is inviting private appraisal companies, which will conduct appraisal of real estate holdings for disposition/acquisition for accreditation provided the following criteria are met:

1. Must be a duly licensed appraisal company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Bureau of Domestic Trade, with authority to conduct business;
2. Must be a member of either the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (IPREA) or the Philippine Association of Real Estate Appraisers (PARA); and
3. Must be in the appraisal business for at least two (2) years as supported by duly audited Financial Statement with the Auditor's report duly stamped by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Interested parties are advised to get in touch with the Program and Marketing Development Division, Commercial and Industrial Estate Department, second floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City or contact Cora Abello at telephone number 922-3002 for further information about the required documents which shall be submitted on or before June 8, 2001.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager
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(PDI – May 12 & 19 2001)

Philippine Daily Inquirer

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"How to Keep Your Job- Tips 3"
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Central bank hints at more rate cuts to prop up economy

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday hinted at more cuts in its key interest rates if inflation tapers off in the coming months and the US Federal Reserve again trims its own rates.

This statement came as the Department of Trade and Industry said it would continue pushing for lower rates to keep big and small business humming amid a slowdown in the US economy.

"A lot will depend on inflation numbers in the coming months, plus any US Fed movement in June, as to whether any further cuts are envisioned," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

On Thursday, the Bangko Sentral cut its key interest rates by half a percentage point following a similar reduction by the US Fed.

From yesterday, the central bank's overnight borrowing rate fell to 9 percent while its lending rate was cut to 11.25 percent. This marked a cumulative reduction of 6 percentage points since December.

The country faced "reduced inflationary pressures over the near term due to expected favorable trends in oil and food prices," giving the central bank flexibility, Buenaventura said.

Stable prices in the first four months of the year indicated that the government's inflation target of between 6.7 and 7 percent this year would be achieved, he added.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, meanwhile, said the Bangko Sentral's move to cut its key rates should not be the last one this year.

As one of two government officials in the seven-member Monetary Board, Roxas said he would continue to look at "windows of opportunities" to push for more interest rate cuts as long as such moves would not push up inflation or destabilize the currency market.

Roxas said this week's rate cut was made in full consideration of its impact on inflation.

The Monetary Board pulled the trigger because it reckoned the threat of deflation was more serious than inflation, he said.

Roxas said the Philippines should not be shadowing what the US Fed was doing to prop up the US economy.

The Bangko Sentral should also be proactive in seeking other means to stimulate the Philippine economy, he said.

Roxas said this week's rate cut was meant to "unburden" businessmen, particularly small and medium-scale enterprises, of the rising cost of capital to cope with the projected slowdown in the domestic economy.

He said the Philippines could not afford to let its businessmen take their cue from the US Fed. Businessmen should now make their move, he said, especially with what he assessed as a successful national and local elections.

Belle president quits

By Doris C. Dumlao

BELLE Corp. president Gregorio Yu yesterday announced he was quitting his post to give retail tycoon Henry Sy a free hand in Belle's rehabilitation.

"I have to make way for Mr. Sy. They are the ones who will save Belle, so I have to give way," Yu said in an interview.

The resignation came as a surprise as most observers saw Yu as among the prime movers of a rehabilitation plan involving a consortium led by Sy.

This consortium is currently hatching a multibillion-peso joint-venture deal with Belle involving the development of over 600 hectares of idle lands in Belle's flagship project, Tagaytay Highlands.

The plan is for Belle to spin off core assets of the Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club Inc. into a new subsidiary, Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc.

Industry sources said Sy's group was still shopping around for someone to replace Yu, whose resignation would take effect on June 15.

Sy already owns 25 percent of Belle.

Although Belle and Tagaytay Highlands are separate companies, Yu said it was a matter of courtesy to give Sy leeway in managing Belle's affairs because the assets of the two companies were intertwined.

Apart from quitting as president of Belle, Yu said he was also stepping down as director of all companies affiliated with Belle, including APC Group Inc., which owns 40 percent of Philcom and Sinophil Corp.

Yu said he would, however, still be active in the board of i-Vantage Corp. and International Exchange Bank.

Gov't won't block increase in oil prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday the government would not stop oil companies from raising their prices, but stressed that it wanted to make sure there would be "no cartelization in the industry."

Camacho reiterated the government would respect the spirit of deregulation and that it would leave market forces at play.

"But we want to make sure that there will be no collusion or cartelization among the oil companies," he told reporters.

Camacho, however, did not elaborate when asked what steps the Department of Energy would take to do this.

The secretary was reacting to a statement made by the New Petroleum Players Association that an increase in oil prices was imminent.

NPPA president Fernando Martinez earlier said new industry players might be forced to hike prices by 80 centavos to a peso per liter.

"We could look at this as an opportunity for other players to have an incentive not to raise prices to corner a bigger share of the market," Camacho said.

Major oil players said they had no plans of raising their prices within the month, adding they were still monitoring movements in the world market and the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Also, Camacho pointed out that the new industry players had no refineries of their own and that they had a different system of sourcing their products.

"We have to recognize this, but consumers should be discriminating enough to go to stations offering lower prices or better services," Camacho stressed.

Martinez blamed the rising cost of importing petroleum products and the deterioration of the peso against the dollar for the need to increase prices.

Power bill seen releasing $950M worth of loans

OUTGOING Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday Congress' approval of the power sector reform law would free up to $950 million worth of loans from the country's multilateral creditors.

Camacho, who will move to the Department of Finance in July, told business executives meeting at the Asian Institute of Management that these loans included some $550 million that the government plans to use to bankroll its Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project.

The $550-million loan will come from the Asian development Bank and Japan Export Import Bank, which have set, as a condition to releasing the money, the approval of a law that will privatize the National Power Corp.

Delays in the approval of this law had already cost the Philippines some $400 million in funding assistance from the ADB and Jeximbank.

"It is very clear that the passage of the power reform bill is seen as a signal by the investor community of the economic reform direction of this administration," Camacho said.

Smart launches prepaid version of ACeS service

By Abigail L. Ho

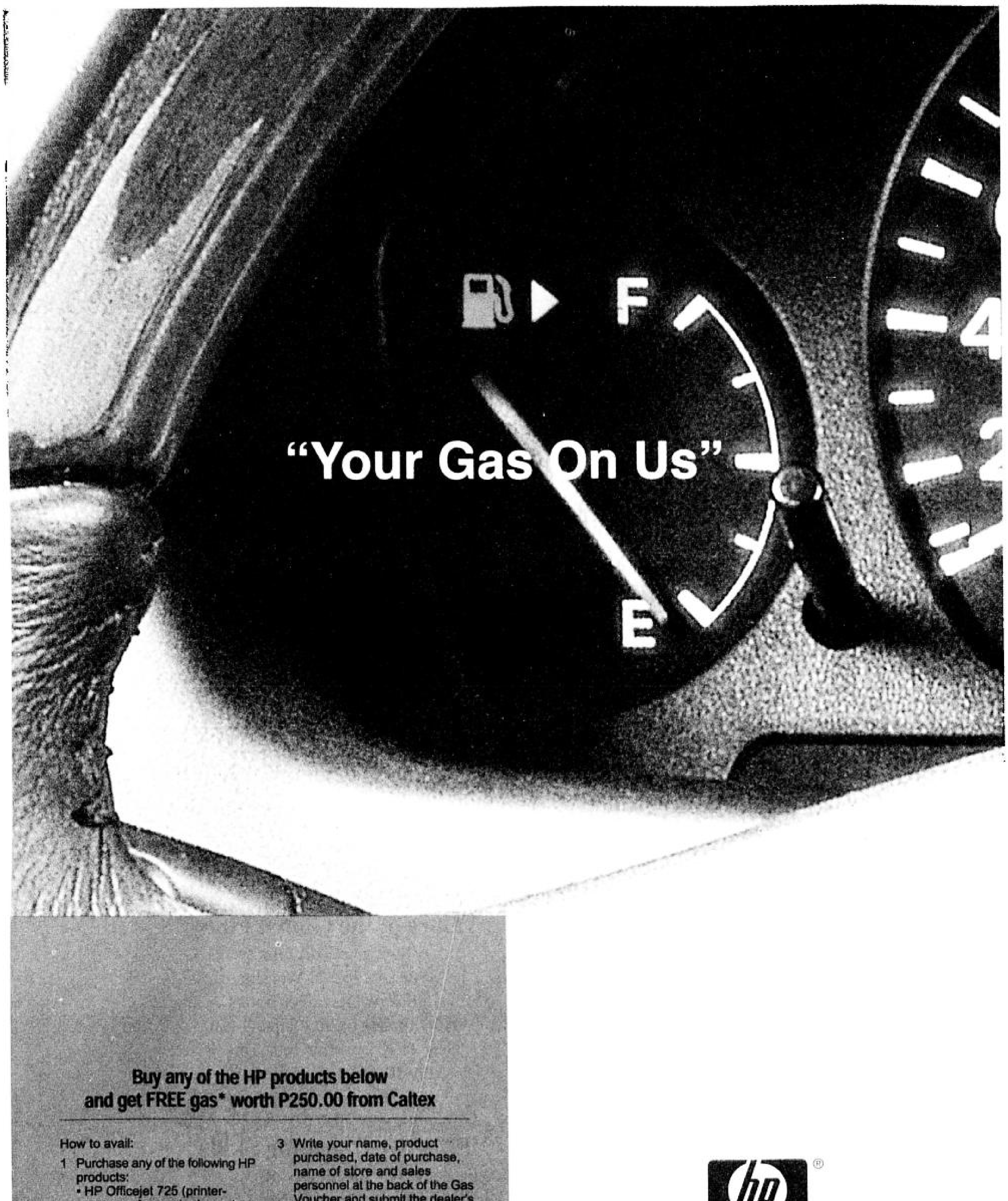
SMART Communications Inc., the wireless group of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has launched the prepaid version of its Smart ACeS (Asia Cellular Satellite) GSM satellite phone service.

This is part of Smart's efforts to provide the widest wireless digital coverage in the Philippines as a pioneer of satellite telephony in the country.

"Our prepaid satellite phone service will make more available the widest wireless connectivity to all Filipinos. By not requiring documents and registration fees, anyone can now have access to the only prepaid mobile phone service that operates in satellite mode," Smart personal communications and mobile services division head Anastacio Martirez said.

Smart ACeS GSM was made available to Smart Gold (postpaid) subscribers in November. Users then ranged from maritime workers, media practitioners and rescue volunteers to adventure-seekers who, more often than not, make voice and data transmissions from remote areas that the GSM signal cannot reach.

With the aid of the geosynchronous satellite of ACeS International, mobile phone service is made possible in a 13-million-square-mile area reaching Japan and China in the north, Indonesia in the south, Papua New Guinea in the east, and Pakistan in the west.



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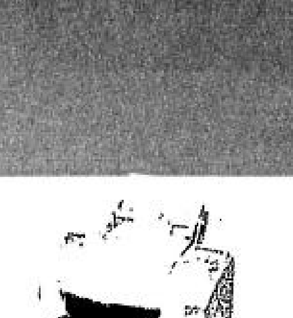
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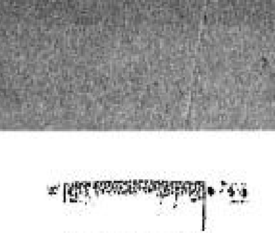
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Gov't seen securing new $600-M WB loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday expressed optimism the Philippines could secure a loan much bigger than the $400-million banking sector reform loan it earlier scrapped.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters a $600-million loan from the World Bank was within range.

"It is possible we might get a higher amount (than $400 million). Maybe we can opt for that," he said.

"Extending the BSRL would only be more problematic. I agree that it would be more effective to let it lapse and simply look at other programs available with the World Bank," he added.

Buenaventura said the national government should try to secure a loan that would be dependent on congressional initiatives.

The government, unable to comply with strict requirements set by the country's creditors, has canceled a $400-million loan from the World Bank.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the government would instead negotiate another loan, also with the World Bank, within the next six to 12 months, and that it would press for less stringent conditions.

A person familiar with the matter said the Macapagal administration found the conditions attached by the World Bank to its $400-million banking sector reform loan too tough to comply with, particularly those involving Philippine National Bank.

The government isn't sure what to do with PNB. It has yet to decide whether to sell all its remaining stake in PNB, which now stands at 15 percent, or do a "reverse privatization" and regain majority control of the bank.

The government extended a P25-billion loan to PNB in October last year. It is now studying whether it will be prudent for it to convert this loan into equities and beef up its stake in PNB.

If it does raise its stake in PNB, the government stands to lose the $400-million World Bank loan. The World Bank has set, among its many requirements before releasing the loan, the full privatization of PNB.

The Macapagal administration is apparently leaning toward raising its stake in PNB following its decision not to proceed with availing of this loan.

PNB is currently in the hands of beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, whose combined stake in the bank stands at 67 percent.

Tan has agreed to sell his stake jointly with the government, as PNB has proven to be an unprofitable part of his business empire.

Country's first microfinance bank gets license

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has given a license to Opportunity Microfinance Bank Inc., the first bank to totally devote its services to micro-businesses and enterprises.

In a news briefing yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said Opportunity Bank was classified as a thrift bank that would do business in Antipolo, Rizal.

The bank has an authorized capital stock of P800 million, with an initial paid-up capital of P58.1 million.

Opportunity Bank was organized by non-government groups like the Alliance of Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development, Opportunity International Network, Alalay sa Kaunlaran sa Gitnang Luzon Inc., Kabalikat Para sa Maunlad na Buhay Inc., Taytay sa Kauswagan, and Daan sa Pag-unland Inc.

Reyes said the Bangko Sentral has received four more applications for a license to operate microfinancing banks.

The central bank has been supporting groups seeking to open microfinancing banks to weed out informal lenders who charge usurious rates.

He said Opportunity Bank was "a step in the right direction and should help small businesses and retailers. This jibes with the new thrust of the BSP to encourage lending to micro-businesses."

Opportunity Bank will rely on group lending schemes to make collections easier and minimize risks. Its target borrowers include *sari-sari* store owners and other businesses that produce daily or weekly income and does not require a big capital.

Mitsubishi Motors reports worst-ever loss

TOKYO—Scandal-hit Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp. yesterday reported its worst-ever loss in the past year, hit by a massive global recall, but the DaimlerChrysler partner said a profit this year was within reach.

Japan's fourth-largest automaker said the launch of new models and aggressive cost cuts under the guidance of minority partner US-German automaker DaimlerChrysler AG would drag it out of two straight years of red ink.

"In the short-term, cost-cutting is probably the only important measure (for us) to survive," said chief operating officer Rolf Eckrodt, who joined the Japanese automaker from DaimlerChrysler in January as a part of a management shakeup.

He told reporters those savings would partially come from 5,050 job cuts by the end of this year out of a planned 9,500 reduction already announced and due to be completed by 2003.

Mitsubishi's group net loss for the year to March 31 ballooned to 278.14 billion yen ($2.27 billion) from 23.33 billion yen a year earlier, in line with the company's March forecast of 270 billion yen.

It attributed the red ink to flagging domestic sales in the wake of the recall of 1.52 million cars worldwide after it admitted last July to hiding defects and customer complaints for more than two decades.

The loss contrasts sharply with a profit recovery at fellow Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., which is being restructured with help from controlling minority shareholder Renault SA of France.

Reuters

DISCLOSURES

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 25 to July 16, 8:30 a.m.

***

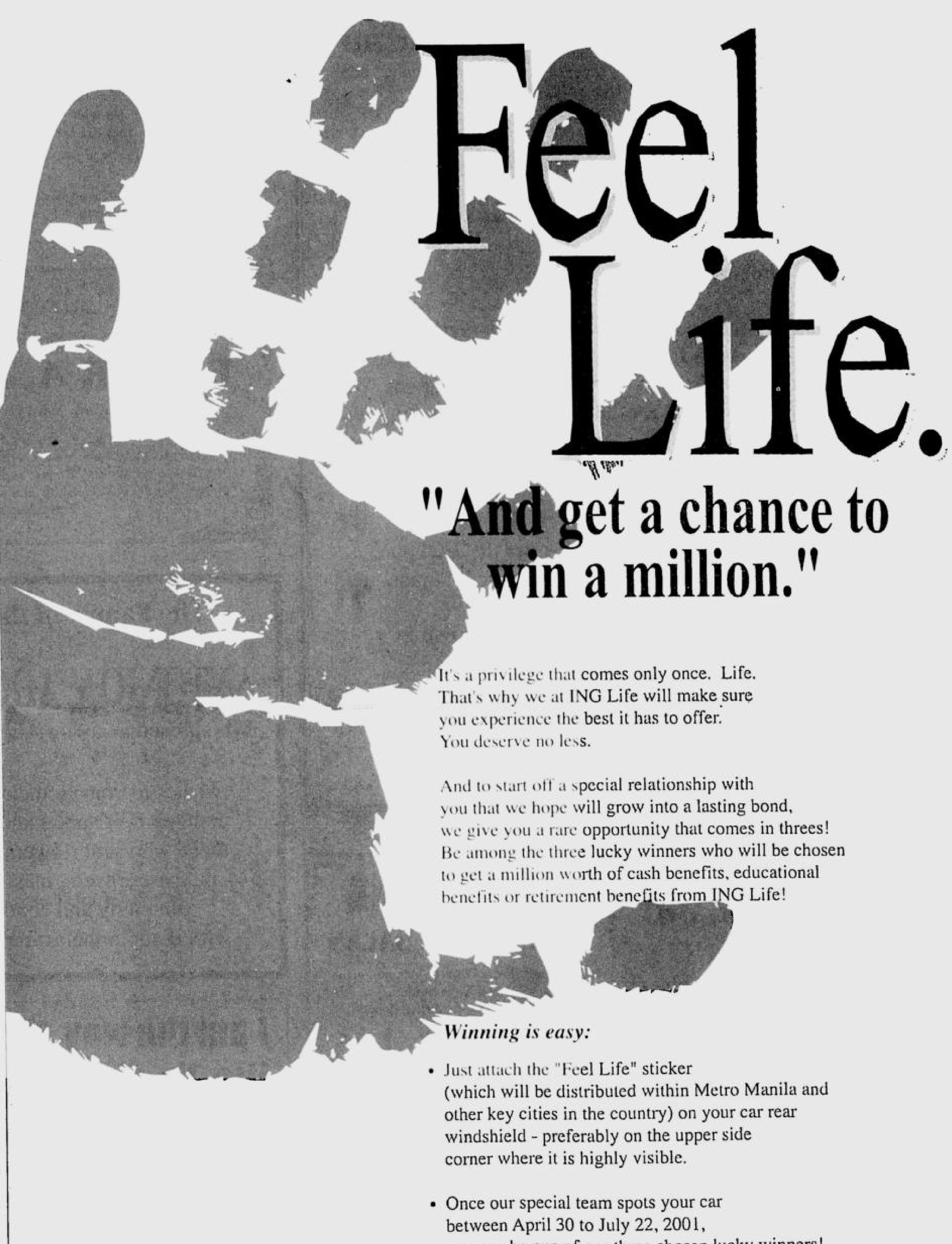
JG Summit Holdings Inc. disclosed that its wholly owned subsidiary **Express Holdings Inc.** acquired additional 33,000 shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.29 per share.

***

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. announced that it has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting which, under its by-laws, should be held in the month of May.

***

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc.'s annual stockholders' meeting, which should be held on the last Wednesday of May has been postponed until further notice. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*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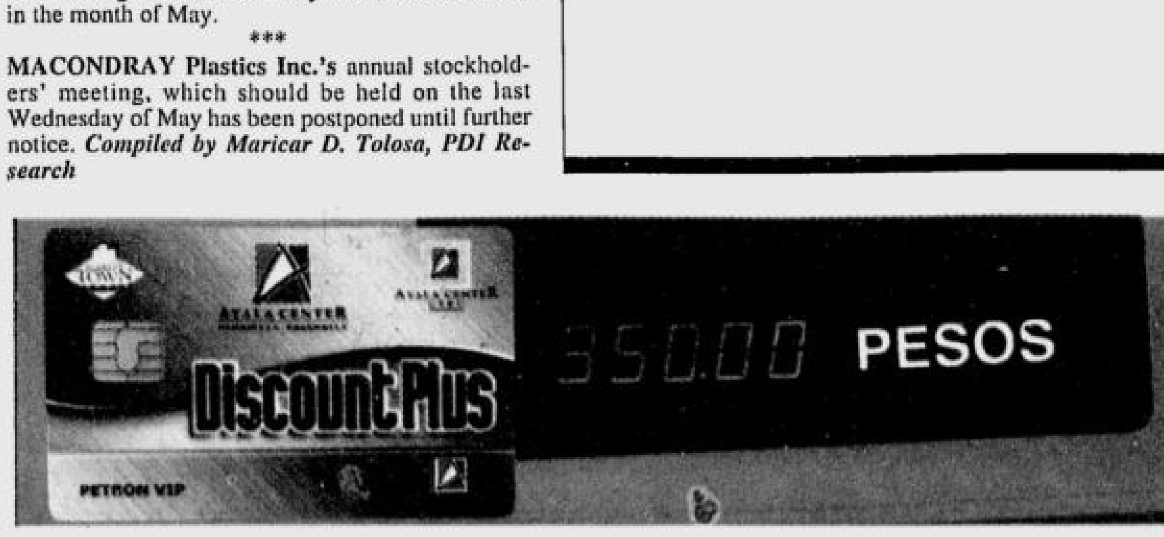

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THE GENERAL PARTNERS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

OF

ORTIGAS & COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

mourn with deep sorrow the passing away of

DON MIGUEL V. CAMPOS

Former General Partner

We extend our condolences to his widow **Julia Ortigas de Campos**, niece **Mercedes Lanuza y Ortigas**; sister **Josefina Campos da Silva**; sisters/brothers-in-law and other relatives. We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be today, May 19, 2001, after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque.

In lieu of flowers, donations to any of the following foundations will be deeply appreciated:
Hospicio de San Jose, Hogar de San Joaquin, or the Father Guido Colette, O.S.J. Foundation.

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

NESTOR J. VALENTON, SR.

of Talavera, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Thursday, May 17, 2001 at the age of 81.

He is survived by his wife **Atanacia**; his bereaved children and their spouses **Ma. Remedios & Dioscoro F. De Leon Jr.**, **Teresita & Godofredo Dela Peña Jr.**, **Miriam Evelyn & Antonio Salazar**, **Lito & Niña Alberto** and **Nestor Jr.**; grandchildren **Tricia**, **Tingting**, **Ria & Vincent**, **Cholo**, **Trina**, **Ching**, **Hannah & Joma**, **AA**, **Anjo**, **Augie & Monique**, **Paulo**, **Carlo**, **Yayo**, **Joey & Sheryl**; and great grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the St. Isidore Parish Hall, Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 23, 2001 at the Talavera, Nueva Ecija Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

ROGER A. ALCANTARA

who peacefully joined his Creator last May 19, 2000.

His beloved wife **"Gigi"**, his son **Roger William**, his mother **Soledad Azcarate Alcantara**, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember "Roger" in their prayers. We would also like to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers.

The Family of the late

ANTONIO V. AGCAOILI

who passed away on April 17, 2001

wishes to convey their sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all those who sent flowers, offered masses, prayers, messages of sympathy and condoled with them in their time of grief.

I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
John 17:9

JESUS "Jess" DIANSIN SIBYA, JR.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 11, 2001 at the age of 51.

His loving wife **Daisy**; sons **Jesus Manuel** and **Jaime Luis**; younger brother **Rafael**; sister-in-law **Marie**; nieces **Shelley**, **Sheena** and **Shannen**; relatives and friends request you to pray for his soul as he journeys home to the Father.

His remains lie in state at the San Joaquin Parish Hall, San Joaquin, Iloilo.

Necrological services will be on Sunday, May 20, 2001, 8:00 a.m. at ths San Joaquin Parish Church.

IN LOVING MEMORY

On the 4th Death Anniversary of

CERWIL B. SALAS

(from: **Papa Wilfredo**, **Mama Cerina** and **Kuya Mathew** of City of Tagbilaran, Bohol)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 19, 1997.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Cerwil in their prayers.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Creditor banks to rehabilitate VMC

GERARDO Anonas, chair of the SEC-appointed Management Committee (Mancom), reiterated the determination of creditor banks to rehabilitate Victorias Milling Company under a management team that is accountable to the Mancom. The SEC confirmed VMC's rehabilitation program in its order dated Feb. 28, 2001. In that same order, the SEC upheld Mancom's power to manage VMC. As a result, creditor banks have installed its own top management but promoted career people from within VMC.

SEC operations have affirmed that there is no question on the management takeover. The transactions with planters, traders and suppliers are on the basis of "business as usual".

Minority shareholder Manuel Mañalac has questioned the management takeover and has petitioned for a TRO, which the SEC has denied.

Anonas clarified that the 15-day period given by SEC is only for the Mancom to consider some amendments to the SEC-approved plan prior to full implementation.

While Mañalac was given by the SEC 15 days to discuss certain points on the approved rehabilitation plan, the SEC did not signify any intentions to order the liquidation of the company. It is true that the SEC has in fact three points.

- To approve the proposed rehabilitation plan, which SEC already has done;
- To liquidate the company, or;
- To allow Mañalac to operate the company without a rehabilitation plan.

Options 2 and 3 are reportedly not possibilities at this point because there has already been an existing approved rehabilitation plan.

Under this plan, the creditor banks will soon own 70 percent of VMC's equity so they will see to it that liquidation will be avoided, according to Anonas.

1ST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND IN ION MONY
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PANA 2000 OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), during it's first general membership meeting at The Manila Hotel, awarded the 2000 outstanding members of the association for their 100-percent attendance and utmost support and participation in all the association's activities. The six outstanding members of 2000 (from left) were Cergen D. Go of Swedish Match Philippines, Inc., Donna Canafranca of Burger Machine, Inc., Angelica P. Suiza of Golden ABC, Inc., (Penshoppe), Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva, Inc., Jun Solomon of Yakult Philippines and Fortunato D. Babasa of Andreson's Group.

Salo is mad cow-free

SALO Restaurant, the most up-to-date and inexpensive concept in Asian dining, assured its patrons, particularly the meat lovers, that all of the restaurant's famous beef creations are just as delectably available in chicken, pork or fish–safe from any mad cow contamination scare.

"Though Salo specialties are not solely beef-based, our accountability for ensuring dining at its most beneficial—and delicious–is top priority. Just the same, we'd like to inform everyone that we still serve beef, locally raised and guaranteed safe, fresh and farthest from the mad cow onslaught. We promise our patrons the healthiest and most scrumptious Asian concoctions this side of Quezon City–cow meat included or not," Boy Santiago, Salo restaurant owner, announced.

The restaurant embraces a fusion of popular favorites from different Asian countries like Thailand's "Phad Thai". "Thai Pomelo Salad", and "Tom Yum Goong". Indonesia and Malaysia's "Rendang". and Korea's "Beef Satay"—all contamination-free and meticulously prepared by their seasoned chefs extensively trained in five-star hotels.

Affordable quality and excellent service–that's the Salo experience. Salo Restaurant is located along Sgt. Esguerra Street, (formerly Bohol Avenue) in Timog.

FRANKE CONTRACT GROUP COURTESY CALL

Top officials of Franke Holdings AG recently conducted a courtesy call with the Department of Trade and Industry. Franke Contract Group is the second largest division of Franke Holdings AG, a Swiss industrial manufacturer with 62 companies worldwide. Focused on the quick service restaurant and casual theme-dining genre, Franke Contract Group specifies designs and produces stainless steel food service equipment that meets the specific need and requirements of customers across the globe. Photo shows (from left) Raymond Caliva, regional sales director of Franke Contract Group Phils. Inc.; Hans Ott, president of Franke Contract Group; Michael Pieper, president and CEO of Franke Holdings AG; Governor Ofelia Bulaong, DTI undersecretary for industry and trade investments; Balthasar Wicki, managing director of Franke Contract Group and Domingo Bagaporo, DTI division chief of the engineering industry department.

$3-MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT

Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, recently inked a US$3-million term loan facility with the Davao Agricultural Ventures Corporation (Davco)—a joint venture between Del Monte Fresh Produce and Anflo Management Corporation. The loan will be used to finance the expansion of Davco's pineapple plantation in Davao City, where a new variety of Del Monte "Gold" pineapples are grown for export. The loan agreement was signed by Davco FVP Oscar Grapa, Davco SVP Rodolfo del Rosario, Jr., Equitable PCI Bank EVP and Corbank head Walter Wassmer, and VP and Corbank 5 Division head Myrianne Gonzales (all seated, third to sixth from left, respectively). Witnessing the signing were Del Monte Fresh Produce senior finance director Shirley Chan (extreme left), Del Monte Fresh Produce general manager Luis Laya (second from left), FVP and legal division head Lawyer Manuel Curato (seventh from left), Anflo Management VP Jun Mutuc (extreme right), and (standing, from left) Equitable PCI Bank legal officer Lawyer Roy Magturo and Corbank account officer Marirose Fernando.

NUMBER PLATES TURNOVER

Domex assistant brand manager Taffy Ledesma (fifth from right) and Barangay Pilar, Las Piñas chair Tito Martinez (fourth from left) are flanked by other barangay officials and housewives during the turnover of house number plates during a village tour Domex sponsored. The Domex team rearranged and affixed new house number plates on all houses in the village to aid the local government in achieving a more organized registration system. Over 21,000 Las Piñas residents will benefit from the project. The Domex team also gave a short lecture on how to actively keep the home clean and germ-free by using Domex. Domex is the only brand approved by the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) as the only all around home cleaner that cleans and kills all known germs. A product of Unilever Philippines, it is available nationwide in 100, 250 and 500-ml bottles.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER OPENS AT ROCKWELL

True Value Home Center Philippines, a trusted resource for do-it-yourselfers, recently opened its newest branch at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center. Gracing the inauguration was Joe John Gomez (fourth from left), international representative for True Value. With him are True Value Rockwell officers (from left) Ed Buenconsejo, operations manager; Alfonso M. Recto, Jr., president and Edna Yu, merchandising True Value Rockwell will also soon launch a Lifestyle Learning Center, which will offer short courses, lectures, demonstrations and workshop on home improvement and decorative arts. Also in photo are Milani Castañeda, ad and promo manager; Jerry Rosilada, HRD training manager; Joey Estera, vice president and chief operating manager and Robert Santiago, comptroller.

Globe Handyphone hits 3 million

An industry leader just can't help but grow bigger. This is proven by the country's undisputed leading cellular network service provider as it reached the incredible number of three million Globe Handyphone subscribers.

And as a way of thanking its millions of loyal subscribers, Globe Handyphone is giving away a brand new Mercedes C-200 in the ultimate mega-party.

Dubbed as 3NX 2Ü (3 million thanks to you), the celebration will be held on May 26 at the Glorietta 4 Park in Makati at 8 p.m. This come-as-you-are party is open to all Globe Handyphone subscribers.

Just by bringing their Globe Handyphones, subscribers can heat up the night and party together with guest celebrities and some of the country's top bands such as Freestyle and Silk.

And to show that this is no ordinary party, Globe Handyphone will be raffling off cellphones and other valuable and exciting prizes. Topping the list is a brand new Mercedes Benz C-200.

It's a total thanksgiving party for 3 million Globe Handyphone subscribers. And as the numbers keep growing, the fun will certainly keep going as Globe Handyphone continues its effort to provide cutting-edge services to enhance the Filipino's mobile lifestyle.

BITS & Clips

New movie channel

BEGINNING Sunday, May 20, experience Cinema One, the newest cable channel that features the best of Filipino movies and entertainment. Plus, it brings in the big cable premieres from Star Cinema, Regal Films, Seiko Films, MAQ Productions, Premiere Productions and other top studios. Cinema One features the Sunday Cine Premiere, Cine Tonight, Blue Light Special, Cinemanews, Alternative Cinema, and ABS-CBN Gold.

AIM new course

TO MEET the training needs of aspiring entrepreneurs and beef up the ranks of the SME sector, the AIM-Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) will launch a new program Venture into Entrepreneurship (VIE) on May 21. The six-month program involves sessions on self-assessment, evaluation of opportunities useful in determining the "best fit" between the entrepreneur and a chosen business venture. For more information, call Liza Ayalde at 892-4011 local 260, or fax 817-2728, 894-1407 and 817-9240.

MCTC 55th year sale

It's a month-long sales discount binge for bargain hunters looking for state-of-the-art medical, laboratory, hospital and personal healthcare equipment, apparatuses and products. Customers of Medical Center Trading Corporation (MCTC), the country's pioneer distributor of industrial and personal health-related equipment, enjoy 20 to 50-percent discounts on a broad-range of imported and locally manufactured products.

MCTC branches in Sta. Cruz, Manila, Lipa City, Cebu City, Iloilo City and Davao City are included in the promos. MCTC's main office is located at Pioneer Street corner Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, with telephone numbers 631-1715, 631-9504 and 631-9355.

SAP MANAGING DIRECTOR AT MAP

In a presentation at the recent 6th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) conference, SAP Philippines managing director Anthony Gatt described to participants how technology is used to empower the SAP workforce. Using mySAP Workplace, Gatt explained that clients, employees, and partners can collaborate online across the entire supply chain 24/7. Increasingly, this has been done not just with laptop computers, but with other mobile devices like palm-top PCs. The efficiency and productivity benefits that result are changing the way companies compete and sustain industry leadership.

PSME-MHC MEDIA PARTNER

Shown is the MOA signing between the third Food and Beverage Engineering Expo organizer Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers–Manila Host Chapter (PSME-MHC) and one of the event's media partners Joey 92.3 Rhythms (Joey). Seated are (from left) PSME-MHC secretariat's marketing and promo director Agnes P. Angeles; Joey 92.3's public relations manager. Tina Tinio PSME-MHC's president engineer Danilo P. Hernandez; and the expo's vice chair, Elmer L. Surriga; (standing) PSMC-MHC's engineer Cesar L. Lim; and PSME-MHC's executive secretary, Marie Mallari. With the theme "Meeting the Challenges Through Strategic Alliances," the expo will be on August 16 to 19, 2001 at the Megatrade Halls 1 to 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, the secretariat may be reached at 373-3601 local 216, 371-7398 or telefax 3717405 and e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph.

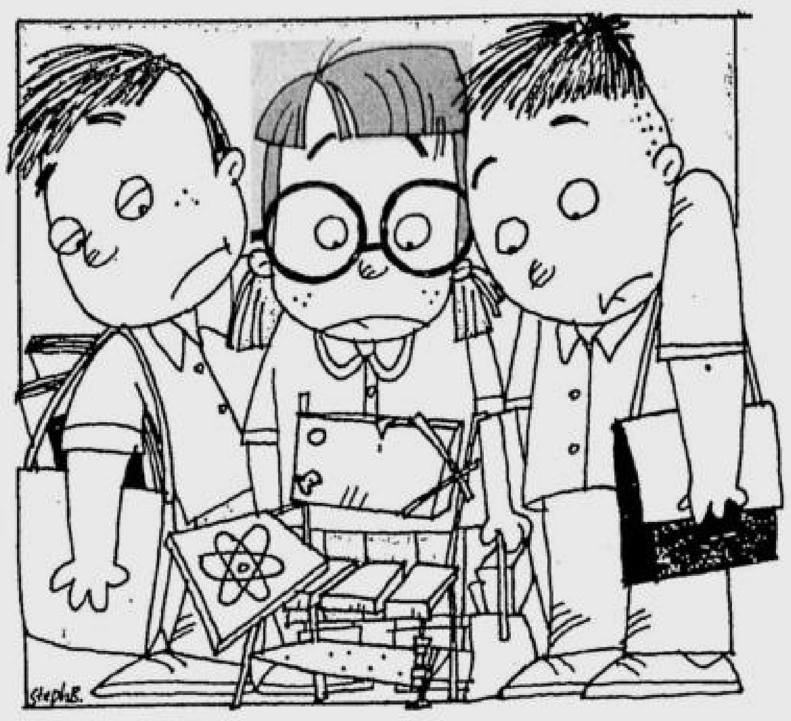
AMERICAN STANDARD SPONSORS WEBSITE LAUNCH

American Standard, makers of world-class bathroom products, sponsored the website launch of the Philippine Institute of Architects during the PIA National Convention in Baguio City. American Standard raffled off major prizes such as water closets and brass fittings during the event. Shown in photo are (from left) architects Alvin N. Vega, Joel V. Rico, Roger G. Villarosa, Christopher E. De Belen, Ma. Lourdes O. Topacio, and marketing director of American Standard, Christopher A. Santos.

NESTLE FACTORY CITED BY DOH

The Cabuyao Factory of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. (NPI) recently received one of the first awards given by the Department of Health for the National Voluntary Blood Service Program. The award was given in recognition of the factory's active participation and support of the bloodletting program of the DOH. Photo shows NPI safety officer Arnel Nuñez (extreme right) receiving the award from DOH regional director Conrado Galsim Jr. (second from right), as NPI HR assistant Babes Sioson and other DOH executives look on.

Better science education needed



THE LACK of discipline among Filipinos, a lack of focus in science and a weak family planning program are the principal obstacles to the country's rapid development, industrialist Lucio C. Tan said during the 77th general assembly of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE).

In an age of globalization where the "big fish eat the small fish," Tan pointed out, the Philippines must address these problems at once or be stuck in its present position—behind its Asian neighbors.

Tan cited India and China, which are active in science but whose population grows at a very fast rate.

He commended Singapore for its disciplined and educated citizens and flourishing science and technology. "Singaporeans prefer to have only one or two children. This way they can provide their children better clothing, education, housing and other needs," Tan said.

University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo noted that Singapore along with Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea and their world-class universities, produced a large pool of first-rate scientists and technologists. This enabled these countries to build high-technology industries competitive with that of Japan, Europe and America while the Philippines barely has research and development activities to speak of.

Nemenzo admitted that command of the English language is a great advantage because it is the "lingua franca of information technology." But he said the country should also concentrate on improving its biggest disability—the pathetic level of science and mathematics education. These subjects, he said, are the basis of science and technology.

The elevation of education, especially English, science and math, is the main thrust of FUSE. Founded by Tan in 1994, FUSE has sponsored various teacher-training programs.

FUSE, in cooperation with the education and science departments, higher learning institutions and government television network PTV-4, also launched Constel, or the Continuing Studies via Television in 1998. Tan has donated millions of pesos to help defray the cost of reproducing Constel videocassette tapes, which FUSE distributed to schools nationwide.

Book shows benefits of Gingko, the 'smart herb'

THE ANCIENT Gingko tree used by the Chinese for thousands of years to restore memory and ease breathing problems has in recent decades become widely known as "the smart herb."

The numerous health benefits of Gingko biloba extract, notably its potential to help in the treatment of a wide range of ailments, are explored in an easy-to-understand book—"Gingko: A Practical Guide" by Dr. Georges Halpern.

Drugs may alleviate symptoms and fight disease, but herbs like Gingko actually promote health and prevent ailments. In the book, which is available at Asia's No. 1 natural products store Healthy Options, the author explores the history of Gingko biloba, its discovery by the west and its primary role and beneficial effects on the brain, the heart, the senses and even one's sexuality. Exciting new developments are likewise cited, all pointing to the conclusion that the Gingko biloba extract should be as much a part of a person's health regimen as vitamin supplements.

The book also informs readers that Gingko has been tested in humans, not just in animals. The Gingko biloba extract is among the most well-studied plant-based medicine in Europe and the United States.

In scientific studies that compared Gingko biloba to 17 drugs used in the treatment of vascular disorders, Gingko was the only one found to be effective against all of the problems associated with aging. These problems include damage to blood vessels, problems with metabolism, "thick blood" (an abnormal tendency to form clots), interaction of free radicals with neurotransmitters, inadequate irrigation of tissues that have been deprived of oxygen, impaired functioning of arteries and clogging of arteries.

Shark cartilage for cancer prevention

CANCER is described by medical experts as one of plaues of modern society. Also called the "Big C," it is now one of the leading causes of deaths in the Philippines. In addition to the conventional treatment for cancer, many health experts are now recommending natural food supplements to help in the prevention and treatment of cancer. Worldwide, approximately 25,000 patients are using shark cartilage today as a natural supplement for cancer prevention and adjunctive therapy.

Shark cartilage is believed to play an important role in preventing and helping treat cancer cells by inhibiting the development of blood vessel growth known as angiogenesis. This helps in killing cancer cells by inhibiting the development of a blood vessel network.

Complementary therapy

Shark cartilage has been shown beneficial as a complementary cancer therapy that clinical trials in humans conducted under the auspices of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been allowed. The FDA only allows such clinical trials on humans if there are already compelling scientific evidence of the drug's clinical benefits.

Cancer specialists have documented the favorable effects of shark cartilage in some of their cancer patients. Dr. Michael Meshad, a well-known oncologist in the United States, reported the case of Yoriko "Ruth" Bynum, a 59-year-old resident of Alabama, who was diagnosed to have metastatic lung cancer. Since the cancer has already extensively spread, it was considered a death sentence.

Extensive evaluation at the M.D. Andersen Cancer Clinic in Houston, Texas, confirmed the widespread extent of Ruth's cancer, which was labeled as aggressive and rapidly infiltrating. Chemotherapy was no longer recommended because of Ruth's markedly deteriorating liver condition.

Progressive relief

Ruth was given high-dose shark cartilage (80 grams per day) which afforded progressive relief in her symptoms especially the joint and muscle pains, incessant cough and difficulty of breathing. After two months on shark cartilage, Dr. Meshad was amazed that Ruth no longer required oxygen and was fully ambulatory. Repeat chest X-ray showed nearly complete resolution of her lung cancer which further improved with the repeat examination three months later.

The exact words of Dr. Meshad as indicated in the doctor's records stated: "Lung fields show near complete resolution of the bilateral extensive pulmonary metastatic disease originally diagnosed in August with marked decrease in October and further decrease today such that they are barely visible. Impression: dramatic resolution of bilateral metastatic adenocarcinoma."

Few months to live

Dr. Martin Milner, head of the Center for Natural Medicine in the United States, reported the case of Bruce Allen, a 66-year-old prostate cancer patient whose disease has already extensively spread to the bones causing severe pains. He was given only a few months to live. He was given high-dose shark cartilage, which was progressively increased from 60 grams per day to 120 grams per day.

After three months of therapy, the severe bone pains were significantly relieved and the prostate specific antigen (PSA), which is a marker for prostate cancer, has dramatically decreased. After one year of continued use of shark cartilage, Allen was still doing well and Dr. Milner reported: "Metastatic carcinoma of the prostate to bone has improved with objective verification on bone scan and serial PSA determination with combination of orchiectomy and shark cartilage. Pain is now nonexistent."

Victory over cancer

Having scored a dramatic victory over his cancer, Allen has become an outspoken advocate of shark cartilage therapy. "I have won my battle; now, my mission is to see that others have the same opportunity in the war against cancer," he said.

Despite the reports on the beneficial effects of shark cartilage on cancer, many specialists emphasize that it should only be considered a supplement to conventional treatments or when these treatments are no longer considered suitable. Its local distributors promote it more as a supplement to help prevent cancer in cancer-prone individuals and not for therapeutic purposes.

Trianon shark cartilage, which is distributed in the Philippines by Trianon International, is now available at Mercury Drug stores. The stock dose is 750 milligram or 0.75 gram per capsule. Some doctors are prescribing this natural product as an adjunctive food supplement to help prevent cancer in those with strong family histories of cancer, particularly smokers, and those constantly exposed to polluted environments. Recommended dose for cancer prevention is two to three capsules daily.

Skin care tips

HAVING clear and supple skin does not happen overnight. Work on achieving distinctive glow by following these tips:

- Make skin cleansing an integral part of your routine. Metropolitan's pollution, makeup and everyday pressures can take their toll on the skin.
- Choose the right cleanser. Today's market offers a myriad of skin cleansers. It's important to know that cleansers with a highly acidic or alkaline pH level can harm the skin. To prevent irritations or rashes, use lipid-free cleansers.
- Treat your skin to mildness. Use Cetaphil Skin Cleansers, the mildest skin cleanser for all skin types and ages. Its nondrying, nonirritating and fragrance-free formulation leaves a thin film of moisture on the skin. Cetaphil can also be used to remove makeup.
- For those suffering from acne, Cetaphil is a pretreatment facial cleanser. Its mild cleansing action prepares the skin for the application of the prescribed topical acne medication.

Recommended by dermatologists, Cetaphil can be used with or without water leaving the skin smooth, soft and supple.

Cetaphil now also comes attractively packaged in a container with soft, rounded contours for a convenient and easy grip in 250-ml and 60-ml sizes. Cetaphil product lines are available at all Mercury Drug outlets and other leading drugstores nationwide as well as top supermarkets in Metro Manila.

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Sickness causing bad breath

WHEN my husband had a bad cold, I could smell his bad breath. Is sickness a source of bad breath? It may be true because when I get sick, I feel like I may have bad breath. What about medications?

Lily G.

Bad breath can come from very ordinary body disorders that go unchecked.

Liver, kidney and diabetic sicknesses are popular internal disorders. A smell of a dead rat would indicate liver failure. A smell similar to urine would indicate kidney failure. An acetone smell would mean severe diabetes.

Also, sinusitis and respiratory infections, postnasal drip and bronchitis are sources of bad breath.

Medications such as antihistamines(antiallergy), diuretics (make you urinate) and tranquilizers (calm you down) can also cause bad breath.

* * *

Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com, The author, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a general and cosmetic dentist who is licensed here and the United States.

A dolphin has the intelligence comparable to that of a five year-old kid. Would you harpoon a five year-old kid?

Help stop the massacre. Send your donations to Bantay Dolphin c/o Bantay Kalikasan ABS-CBN Foundation Mo. Ignacia St., Quezon City or call our hotline: 9253333 for details.

BANTAY

kalikasan@abs.pinoycentral.com

Dental implant, anyone?

BY LEAH SALTERIO

VANITY has something to do with it. If you're someone who is simply not content with dentures, jackets or braces, then you can have dental implants. It's like having a perfect set of teeth all over again.

That's the specialization of 31-year-old dentist Steve Mark Gan, who is perhaps the youngest practitioner in that field.

"Oral surgery has been neglected and most people only go for the usual tooth extraction," Gan maintains. "The market for dental implant is very small and very competitive that's why I want to create awareness."

Implant surgery is for those who want to get back their quality of life, according to Gan.

"If you want to look good, feel good or gain more confidence, then you should go for implant surgery," Gan says.

"If can't laugh aloud, smile or eat in public because you're afraid your dentures may slip or a space left by missing teeth may show, dental implants may improve the way you feel about your teeth."

Gan informs that when a patient loses one molar, he also loses one third of his chewing power.

"But once you have implants, you can eat steak or chew apple, something which you can't do with just having false teeth. Of course, the best is still having a perfect set of teeth."

Dental implants have been used successfully for many years in the United States and Gan wants to make this known in Manila.

STEVE Mark Gan. The youngest practitioner in his field.

"Dental implants anchor prosthetic or artificial teeth into your jaw bone to provide a secure, stable fit," Gan explains. "Implants can meet your individual needs, whether you're missing all, a few or only one of your teeth."

Patients

Gan's patients range from ages 10 to 82, most of whom are foreigners. His operating room is separated from his dental clinic, where he also practices basic dentistry.

Celebrities such as Angel Aquino, Lindsay Custodio and Jamie Rivera have also availed of Gan's services.

However, if a patient comes to him for implant surgery, Gan doesn't normally perform the operation right away.

"I want to be more familiar with the patient," he says. "If he/she is nervous, I don't recommend the treatment right away. That way, you also help them overcome their fear of dentists."

He requires clearance from a medical doctor before a patient can undergo dental implant. He also makes the patient sign a consent form.

"Smokers or those with hypertension can't have implant surgery," Gan says. "For smokers, the healing process takes longer, while those with hypertension are not really recommended to undergo the operation."

He once did an impaction for a wisdom tooth on a patient with fainting spells.

"I wasn't told about his condition and he passed out during surgery," Gan relates. "My heart stopped for one second and I got scared for the patient. But we were able to revive him right away."

Qualifications

A person also has to have good maxillary bone to make him qualified for an implant surgery.

"It's like a constructing a building or planting a tree, you have to have good foundation," Gan says.

When performing oral surgery, Gan has all the necessary equipment in his clinic, like oxygen tanks, IVs and heart monitors, for the safety of the patient. He normally requires general anesthesia, but also gives local anesthesia.

"It's a very precise and meticulous job," Gan says. "But there's really nothing to be afraid of if you're fit to undergo implant surgery. After a week, you can recover and you can eat anything."

In case everyone thinks Gan has no life outside his clinic, the young dentist gets to play golf or bowling once in a while.

He also attends to his business, which supplies German surgical products like gloves and syringes to Manila hospitals.

Aspiration

Born to a family of doctors, Gan wanted to become a top honcho of a company (read: chief executive officer or CEO) when he was younger. He took up commerce at the University of Sto. Tomas, but later shifted to dentistry at the University of the East.

After completing his dental course in Manila, Gan went to the University of Southern California School of Dentistry in Los Angeles, where he took a one-year advanced prosthodontic residency. He also did residency in prosthodontic implant training at the University of California and implant surgery training at the West Coast Surgery for Osseointegration, both in Los Angeles.

In the future, Gan expresses his desire to specialize in plastic surgery.

"I want to be the best at what I do," he says. "I don't want to sound boastful, but I want to be No. 1 in my field."

Gan holds clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center Suite 1212-A and also at the Chinatown Dental Center at 822 Reina Regente St., Binondo, Manila. Soon to open is his clinic at the Medical Plaza Building on Amorsolo Street, Makati City.

E-mail lessons

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THIS week, I am taking a break from answering reader mail—I am constantly impressed by the variety of questions I receive, but I do need time to research on them. I would like to share with you some information, which I received through the Internet, through colleagues and friends.

First, let us look at some anagrams sent by my husband Smith. Anagrams are rearrangements of letters of a word in order to form other (clever) words or phrases.

Dormitory: Dirty room
Desperation: A rope ends it
Evangelist: Evil's Agent
Mother-in-law: Woman Hitler
A Decimal Point: I'm a dot in place
Eleven plus two: Twelve plus one

The Morse Code: Here come dots
Slot Machines: Cash lost in 'em
Animosity: Is no amity
Snooze Alarms: Alas! No more Z's
The Earthquake: That queer shake

To readers: Can you send me your own anagrams? I will publish the best ones.

* * *

Secondly, let us take some time for thought. A few months ago, I included some reflections forwarded by my friend Elaine Lao—food for thought for all of us. Now I am adding to the list, courtesy of Gerard Go of Anvil Executive Club:

I've learned

that no matter how much I care, some people just don't care back.

that it takes years to build up trust, and only seconds to destroy it.

that it's not what you have in your life, but who you have that counts.

that you can get by on charm for about 15 minutes. After that, you'd better know something.

that you shouldn't compare yourself to the best others can do.

that either you control your attitude, or it controls you.

that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place.

that my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

that you should never tell children their dreams are unlikely or outlandish. Few things are more humiliating, and what a tragedy it would be if they believed it.

that your family won't always be there for you. It may seem funny, but people you aren't related to can take care of you and love you and teach you to trust people again. Families aren't biological.

that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

That it's hard to determine where to draw the line between being nice and not hurting people's feelings and standing up for what you believe, and just as hard to determine where to draw the line between standing up for your own interests and still being nice.

that no matter how you try to protect your children, they will eventually get hurt and you will hurt in the process.

* * *

Lastly, let us look at an e-mail sent by my colleague Raffy Saldaña of the Ateneo Math Department. It should' interest not only math teachers, but anyone who is deeply involved in education—parents, administrators and students themselves.

Math Teacher's Ten Commandments

By: Donald Edge and Ellen Freedman

1. Thou shalt accept the challenge of teaching math and educate thyself in every way so that students will learn.
2. Thou shalt recognize that some students fear or dislike math and be compassionate and understanding when teaching.
3. Thou shalt convey to students that their self worth is unrelated to their math skills.
4. Thou shalt adapt teaching strategies to meet the different learning styles of students.
5. Thou shalt respect all student questions as you would have them respect yours.
6. Thou shalt pursue the response of "I still don't understand" through different avenues until there is understanding.
7. Thou shalt not ask a class "Do you understand?" Instead, thou shalt determine what each student knows and does not know, and address student problems individually.
8. Thou shalt identify students in need of extra help and make certain they get it.
9. Thou shalt actively involve students in class, assign daily homework and quiz frequently, knowing that student discipline comes from teacher discipline.
10. Though they may at times seem few, thou shalt count thy blessings.

To math teachers: what do you think about these commandments? Can you add more? Have you been practicing them? What were the results? Write about your true-to-life experiences and I may publish them in a future column. Send your letters to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Dept., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph. I will give an autographed copy of my book to the best letters.

The case of a stroke in the young

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

"THEY'RE getting younger and younger," Dr. Carlos Chua, head of neurology at the UP-PGH Medical Center, shook his head after examining Romy at the Emergency Room. Romy, a 25-year-old graduate of an exclusive university, was rushed to the hospital for sudden paralysis of the left side of the body. This was accompanied by slurring of the speech.

Dr. Chua requested for a CT scan of the head which confirmed his diagnosis of stroke. Still, he remained puzzled at how a 25-year-old apparently healthy individual could suddenly develop a stroke.

Work pressure

Romy's parents and siblings volunteered the following information. Romy was a marketing representative for a local company and he had been under pressure the last six months trying to meet his quota. Barely a year in his job, he was aiming for a promotion as supervisor. His area of responsibility was quite big and he was usually out of town three weeks a month. He smoked a few sticks a day and drank occasionally. His parents could not remember of any significant medical problem in the past. He was healthy as a bull and was even a university athlete in college.

Romy is the eldest in the family. His parents and younger siblings noted that in the past few months, his personality has somewhat changed. He appeared to be always on the edge, and would blow his top over trivial matters. He worked more and slept less. The family members dismissed it as simply the effect of work pressure.

Romy's blood pressure was elevated on admission. His heart rhythm was, however, normal and there was nothing to suggest a heart problem, which can cause an embolic stroke, a frequent culprit of stroke in the young. An embolic stroke happens when a blood clot in the heart chips off and get carried by the circulation to block a brain artery.

Dr. Chua referred Romy to a heart specialist who also ruled out a heart problem but was equally puzzled at Romy's markedly elevated blood pressure for his age.

Positive to shabu

The results of the laboratory tests the following day provided the answer. His urine test was strongly positive for methamphetamine, or "shabu."

Shabu is one of the most frequently abused substances plaguing developing and underdeveloped countries. It may be chronically abused or used intermittently. Initially, one may take it for weight loss, or to remain awake and alert for long hours while working, or simply just for fun. Shabu users claim that it increases alertness, reduces fatigue, heightens concentration, decreases the appetite, and enhances physical performance. Users get a false feeling of well-being or euphoria.

Some users take this drug and go to disco pubs and other "after-midnight" clubs where they socialize and dance the whole night through. One hardly realizes that he's getting hooked to the substance and with repeated use, one develops physical and psychological dependence on it. Bigger and bigger doses are then required to produce the same effect.

Many shabu users are depressed and take it for mood elevation, to give them a "high," and temporarily relieve the depression. After the effect subsides, the resulting depression is even more severe which may induce some to commit suicide.

In addition to stimulating the brain, shabu increases the blood pressure and heart rate Fatal heart attacks have occurred, even in healthy young athletes. Strokes, as in Romy's case, may also develop. The blood pressure may become so high that a blood vessel in the brain may become occluded or even rupture. Romy was fortunate that his stroke was due to occlusion and not rupture of the blood vessel in the brain. A rupture carries a more serious outcome, sometimes death.

People who habitually use shabu rapidly develop tolerance requiring eventually much bigger doses. At big doses, abusers may become psychotic or mentally deranged which can explain the despicable and heinous acts they may commit. They usually develop severe anxiety, paranoia and a distorted sense of reality. Psychotic reactions include auditory and visual hallucinations such that they hear and see things that don't exist. They also develop feelings of omnipotence or invincibility.

Rehabilitation

Shabu users need a lot of support to be rehabilitated. Withdrawal symptoms may be quite severe which may require hospitalization or confinement to a special facility. Symptoms opposite to the drug's effects occur with discontinuation. The user becomes tired and sleepy that may last 2 to 3 days after stopping the drug.

Those who were depressed when they started using shabu even become more depressed when they stop. They should be closely watched for any suicidal tendency Delusions and hallucinations may respond to antipsychotic drugs, which calm and alleviate distress. These may also help lower the blood pressure.

A key success factor in the physical and psychological rehabilitation of shabu users is to provide them with reassurance and a quiet, nonthreatening environment where they can get a lot of emotional and psychological support

Romy stayed in the hospital for two weeks. He subsequently underwent a rehabilitation program both for his stroke and substance abuse. He recovered his motor strength from the stroke and his psychological well-being from shabu abuse after several months. He lost his job, but he gained back his life.

* * *

To our dear readers and medical colleagues, thank you for all the kind messages, comments and inquiries you've been sending. I try to answer as many as I can, but I still have a stack of unanswered letters and messages. Please bear with me. For those who would like their cases featured and are willing to have their true identities written, kindly indicate so in your letters along with a photocopy of your ID card bearing your signature.

God Bless and good health!

Dr. Raffy

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila . or e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Helping protect baby's skin

THE USE of right disposable diapers can actually help protect baby's sensitive skin.

According to scientific research, stool and urine make babies prone to diaper rash while diaper leaks cause red markings on baby's leg creases.

Perspiration, which usually occurs on baby's lower back, also causes skin irritation when it dries up.

Skin irritation and rashes develop when baby's wetting, averaging five times a night, cannot be absorbed fully by some brands of diapers.

To address this problem, Procter &Gamble Phils. has introduced new skin-friendly Pampers Baby Dry with more Dermacream, which provides sufficient protection for baby's sensitive skin.

New skin-friendly Pampers Baby Dry also has Dermacream not only on the topsheet but also on the inner leak guards. This gives babies softer and smoother skin on leg creases.

Likewise, its stretchable and breathable waistband helps let perspiration evaporate and thus cools baby's skin.

The product's softer, cloth-like refastenable tapes on diapers help avoid scratching and red markings on baby's skin. It also has triple lock away core designed to absorb up to six wettings and thus, helps keep babies dry throughout the night.

The product is accepted by the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines, an organization dedicated to providing high-quality health care to Filipino mothers and children.

Encouraging kids to try running

RUNNING as a sport has become increasingly popular in past years because of its benefits coupled with its simplicity and low cost. It can also be fun and actually gives you a natural high. Long-term runners swear it is a fountain of youth because as a vigorous activity, it promotes good health and fitness, particularly of the heart and blood vessels. Nonrunners, confess it, feel a twinge of envy when they see a trim and fit senior citizen breezing by on a morning jog.

But is running good for children? The answer is yes, provided they have proper instruction and do it right. Studies have shown that running is a natural extension of walking among young children. This phenomenon is highly evident in school playgrounds, where you see children running all over the place, racing and playing tag.

Encouragement

Children can be encouraged to run. The American Academy of Pediatrics observes that there is "a recent surge in the participation of children in distance running." In the United States, some young athletes run 10 to 15 miles daily and participate in running competitions including marathons.

The training approaches for young and mature runners are different. While a mature runner needs to stay with a strict and rigorous program to maintain an optimum healthy condition, a young runner must depend on the constant guidance and attention of a parent or coach.

Schools can offer an ideal environment in which to help nurture a passion for running among children. Careful instruction and a fun attitude toward the sport are necessary elements in building the enthusiasm of young runners.

Habits

Good running habits should be established early. One of these habits is warming up by stretching before and after running. The importance of stretching can never be overemphasized.

Young runners should be made aware of the hazards of not properly preparing for a vigorous activity like running. As soon as children demonstrate their intention of pursuing the sport, the importance of developing habits such as stretching and maintaining a balanced diet should be impressed on them.

Experience of joining

If your child is already into running, encourage him or her to join competitions in order to avail of training opportunities. Don't force your child to compete with the goal of winning a gold medal. Make it clear that acquiring the experience of joining a competition is more important and it is meant to be fun.

A perfect venue for healthy competition as well as fun experience for young runners is this year's 25th National Milo Marathon. The country's most prestigious and longest existing running competition, the Milo Marathon celebrates its silver anniversary by welcoming more young participants. The 25th Milo Marathon's expanded activities will feature greater rivalry among schools teams vying for top honors, fueled by interschool cheering competitions.

For runners

Introducing more young people to the joy and satisfaction of running is the Milo Marathon's way of promoting a healthy and active way of life. Two categories of the race tailored for young runners are the 3-kilometer Kiddie Run and the 5-Kilometer Fun Run.

The 25th Milo Marathon starts in Metro Manila on June 24 with a full 42-kilometer marathon category. The schedule of regional races is as follows: Davao City, July 8; Naga City, July 22; Tacloban City, Aug. 5; Olongapo City, Aug. 19; Bacolod City, Sept. 2; Tuguegarao City, Sept. 16; Gen. Santos City, Sept. 30; Batangas City, Oct. 14; Cagayan de Oro City, Oct. 28; Baguio City, Nov. 14; and Cebu City, Nov. 25. The national finals will be held in Metro Manila on Dec. 9.

If your child wants to run, then the 25th Milo Marathon is meant for him or her.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

END OF CANCER?

Human genome project, new drugs provide hope

THE END of cancer could take just about 40 more years, thanks to the human genome project and a new generation of cancer medicines that hunt for precise targets.

After years of setbacks and failures, cancer researchers are predicting with increasing confidence that the disease will be vanquished soon. Recent progress in molecular biology and the unraveling of the human genome have opened up to researchers hitherto undreamed of prospects of finding a cure for cancer, according to a number of specialists who attended the American Society for Clinical Oncology's annual conference in San Francisco.

US oncologist Brian Druker, who heads the Oregon Cancer Institute, is optimistic that cancer will be relegated to the bottom of the pile of fatal illnesses in the 21st century, in the same way pneumonia, flu and tuberculosis were in the 20th century.

The end of cancer could take about 40 years, with incredible effort and a lot of funding, Druker said.

"The 21st century will see the identification of all molecular pathogenic events in all cancers," was his prediction at the society's 37th annual conference, which concluded this week.

"We are going to be able not only to devise drugs to target those dysfunctions but also to devise drugs to prevent cancer from occurring," he said.

Breakthrough drug

Druker achieved near celebrity status in the wake of the US Food and Drug Administration's speedy approval last week of a once-a-day pill that treats chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), a cancer that is curable only with a dangerous and unpleasant bone-marrow transplant.

The new drug is Imatinib mesylate, or STI-571, marketed under the brand names Gleevec or Glivec, which specifically inhibits the enzyme that causes CML.

Through use of the miracle drug so far, 90 percent of patients who have CML—discovered in 1845 but until now treated with little success—have gone into remission.

Gleevec proved its efficacy so quickly even Druker and his research team were surprised. Druker spoke of CML test patients who went from planning funerals to returning to normal lives after a few days of treatment.

"If we can do it with Gleevec and CML, we can do it with every form of cancer," Druker said. "It is not going to be tomorrow, but we are on the right track."

"Leukemia treatments have always led the way in all cancer treatment. Leukemia will lead the way once again, this time in molecular target therapy," he said.

Human genome

The campaign against cancer is expected to accelerate further with the decryption of the human genome that allows analysis of a person's genome via DNA chips for tailor-made treatments, and proteomics—or the science of proteins—developing at a pace.

"For the first time, researchers have the necessary tools to probe the molecular anatomy of tumor cells in order to detect the proteins that cause cancer," said Richard Klausner of the National Institute for Cancer.

"We are not only going to say Ms Smith has breast cancer but we are going to be able to say, 'Here are the four genes that are abnormal in Ms Smith,'" said John Mendelsohn of the Anderson Cancer Center in Texas, noting the personalized nature of treatments to come.

"We hope to predict individual vulnerability and be able to design targeted treatments," said Michael Bishop, the co-winner of the 1989 Nobel physiology/medicine prize for his discovery of oncogenes. "Prevention should be our ultimate objective."

Druker expects researchers to take 10 to 20 years to identify the right targets for cancers, including more prevalent forms such as lung, breast, skin and prostate. He believes that an array of smart drugs will be needed, which should become available during the next 10 to 40 years.

"We are going to cure cancer, but it is not going to be one cure (for all types)," he said.

Other drugs

Another product that is generating interest is ImClone Systems Inc.'s experimental drug IMC-C225. The drug works by blocking a substance called epidermal growth factor from attaching to a receptor on the surface of cancer cells. It thus stops a chain reaction that allows cells to multiply.

Drug maker AstraZeneca Plc is developing Iressa, a drug that also targets the epidermal growth factor receptor and which has reduced tumors in lung cancer.

OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc. also is developing a targeted therapy called Tarceva with Genentech and Roche Holding Ltd.

Better than chemo

The medicines, because they spare most healthy cells, appear gentler than chemotherapy.

The most common side effect so far for IMC-C225 and Iressa is an acne-like skin rash. Their safety is still being investigated. In GIST patients, Gleevec can cause potentially dangerous internal bleeding.

Scientific progress to date makes 50 percent of cancers curable.

But as Jean-Yves Pierga, a breast cancer specialist at Curie Institute, Paris, observes, "Unfortunately, cancer will still kill many people in the coming years."

However, Dr. Roy Herbst remains optimistic. Taking up Winston Churchill's famous words of 1942 relating to the end of World War II, he said: "This is not the end. This is not even the beginning of the end. But maybe it is the end of the beginning." *AFP and Reuters*

Mouthwash against oral cancer very promising

SAN FRANCISCO—A gene therapy mouthwash shows promise of warding off oral cancer by destroying ominous growths before they turn malignant.

The idea is to attack these premalignant patches by unleashing viruses that have been programmed to kill cells that contain cancer-causing genes.

The first study of this approach is still under way, but doctors said it appears to work in at least some patients, making ominous patches in their mouths disappear completely.

Over the past two decades, scientists have learned that all cancer arises from genetic defects, often a half-dozen or more, which accumulate over a lifetime and causing cells to grow rampantly and spread through the body.

Roadblocks

With this insight came the belief that it might be possible to target these bad genes to stop cancer. This approach was once one of the hottest ideas in cancer research. But enthusiasm cooled as scientists came up against roadblocks.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks was how to reach and kill every last cancer cell when tumors are buried deep within organs or are spread widely. Even reaching 80 percent of the cells—a tall order—is not good enough because the rest keep growing.

So researchers decided that the mouth might be an excellent target for gene therapy, since the problem can be easily reached.

"The advantage is that it's where we can see it," Dr. Ezra Cohen of the University of Chicago said during a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

"We can get to it, and the therapy does not get absorbed into the body."

White or red patches in the mouth, called dysplastic lesions, frequently are a forerunner of malignancy, and they are common among smokers and heavy drinkers.

These cells typically contain mutant genes, and one of the most common is a broken p53 gene. This is a tumor-suppressor gene and it kills cells that contain dangerous mutations. Without a working copy of this gene, the mouth growths can progress and become cancerous.

Cohen and colleagues at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and the University of California at San Francisco tested a gene-therapy mouthwash developed by Onyx Pharmaceuticals.

Killing bad genes

The treatment consists of adenovirus, a kind of cold virus that lacks a working copy of one gene that ordinarily allows the virus to infect cells with good p53 genes. Without this gene, it should infect only cells with damaged p53 genes. In theory, at least, the crippled virus will enter these precancerous cells and kill them.

The doctors decided to conduct the study after a promising start in one patient, a 28-year-old woman smoker with extensive patches in her mouth. After two brief rounds of treatment, the patches disappeared.

But they came back later, this time as cancer.

So now the doctors are giving patients the flavorless mouthwash once a week for 12 weeks. Those who respond get another 12 weeks of treatment.

So far, the patches have disappeared completely in two of the 10 treated, one of them for nearly six months. They have partially cleared up in two others.

The doctors hope to test the approach in 20 patients. If that goes well, the next step will be experimental treatment in people with severe cases of precancerous patches as well as in those who already have had mouth cancer and risk recurrence.

"It makes sense, but it is very, very preliminary,'" commented Dr. Barbara Conley of the National Cancer Institute. "But the good part is that it is not toxic or onerous. It's a mouthwash." *AP*

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SATURDAY,
MAY 19, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat of the Week

Nestlé Cream

Hollywood announces lineup of summer movies

IN "Angel Eyes," Jennifer Lopez plays a cop for the first time in her career.

LOS ANGELES—Highlights of Hollywood's summer film lineup :

May

"About Adam:" A mysterious stranger (Stuart Townsend) in Dublin tempts and titillates his new girlfriend's family. Kate Hudson co-stars.

"Angel Eyes:" Jennifer Lopez is a cop who falls for a lost soul (Jim Caviezel) who has an unusual connection to her past.

"Bread And Roses:" A Mexican woman helps lead a drive to unionize her fellow janitors in Los Angeles.

"Calle 54:" Latin music is at the heart of this performance documentary. The players include Tito Puente, Eliane Elias and Gato Barbieri.

"Ed Gein:" Steve Railsback stars as the Wisconsin serial killer, supposedly an inspiration for such murder tales as "Psycho" and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

"Eureka:" A Japanese epic about the unusual relationship among three survivors of a bloody bus hijacking.

"Fast Food Fast Women:" Anna Thomson and Louise Lasser in a romantic comedy about the patrons of a Manhattan coffee shop.

"A Knight's Tale:" Heath Ledger masquerades as a knight at jousting tourneys in a Middle Ages romance fueled by modern rock tunes.

"The Long Run:" A young woman enters a grueling South African marathon under the tutelage of a demanding coach (Armin Mueller-Stahl).

"The Man Who Cried:" A Jewish singer (Christina Ricci) must choose between love or life as World War II breaks out. Johnny Depp, Cate Blanchett and John Turturro co-star.

"Moulin Rouge:" Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor star in Baz Luhrmann's musical set in a garish Paris nightclub in 1900.

"The Mummy Returns:" Imhotep and the gang are back, doing battle with the evil Scorpion King. Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz star.

"Our Song:" Inner-city teen drama centers on three friends in a school marching band who pass the time flirting, shoplifting and daydreaming.

"Pavilion Of Women:" Luo Yan and Willem Dafoe star in a romantic drama of clashing cultures. Adapted from Pearl S. Buck's novel.

"Pearl Harbor:" Jerry Bruckheimer and Michael Bay deliver a mega-budgeted epic on the Japanese sneak attack. The cast includes Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

"Shrek:" A loner ogre's swamp is overrun by fairy-tale creatures in this animated comedy featuring the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy.

"Startup.com:" Timely documentary that chronicles the rise and fall of an Internet company and its two young founders.

"Time And Tide:" Hong Kong action thriller about a bodyguard whose friendship with a mercenary ends when they wind up on opposite sides of a fight.

"The Trumpet Of The Swan:" Animated musical based on E.B. White's tale features the voices of Jason Alexander, Mary Steenburgen and Reese Witherspoon.

June

"A.I. Artificial Intelligence:" Steven Spielberg tells a tale of a boy robot who's out of place among humans and machines. Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law and Frances O'Connor star.

"The Animal:" An animal-organ transplant turns a file clerk (Rob Schneider) into a supercop—but leaves him battling new basic instincts.

"The Anniversary Party:" Jennifer Jason Leigh and Alan Cumming write, direct and star in this ensemble drama about a Hollywood marriage on the skids. Gwyneth Paltrow and Kevin Kline co-star.

"Atlantis: The Lost Empire:" Disney's animated epic features a ragtag band of explorers burrowing for the lost city. Michael J. Fox heads the voice cast.

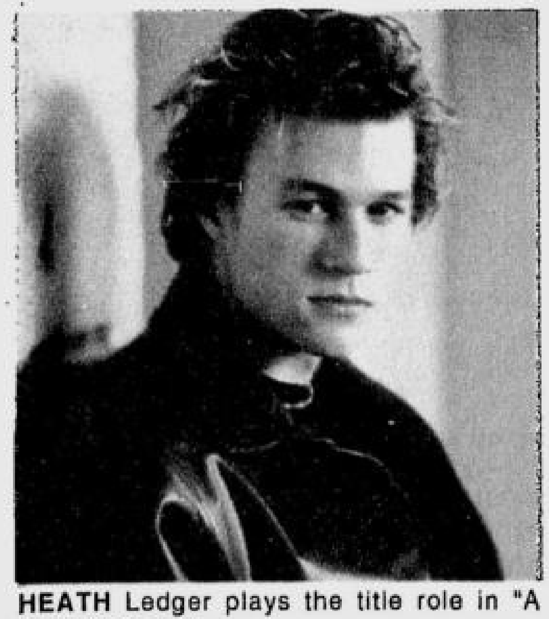
"Baby Boy:" John Singleton ("Boyz N the Hood") revisits inner-city Los Angeles with this street tale of a misguided young man (Tyrese Gibson).

"Better Than Sex:" A one-night stand turns into two nights, then three, and thoughts of love for a photographer and dressmaker in Australia.

"Big Eden:" A bizarre homosexual love triangle forms when an artist returns to his Montana hometown. Arye Gross and Louise Fletcher co-star.

"Bride Of The Wind:" Director Bruce Beresford spins the tale of a Vienna composer (Sarah Wynter) whose paramours include Gustav Mahler (Jonathan Pryce).

"Cinema Paradiso:" The beloved Italian romance chronicling a man's lifelong passion for film is reissued in a new director's cut by Giuseppe Tornatore.


HEATH Ledger plays the title role in "A Knight's Tale."

"The Closet:" A bland accountant at a condom factory spices up his life with the rumor he's gay. Daniel Auteuil and Gerard Depardieu star.

"Doctor Dolittle 2:" Eddie Murphy can still talk to the animals as he teams with critters to protect a forest from developers.

"Everybody Famous!:" An Oscar nominee for foreign-language film, this Belgian comedy centers on a factory worker who kidnaps a pop star to realize his music dreams.

"Evolution:" Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters") directs David Duchovny and Julianne Moore in a comic battle against rapidly evolving aliens.

"The Fast And The Furious:" A cop goes undercover to infiltrate street-racing teams and investigate truck hijackings. Paul Walker and Vin Diesel star.

HOLLYWOOD/p.C2

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Business Center

Hollywood announces lineup of summer movies

(From page C1)

"For Da Luv Of Money:" A comic look at a day in the life of a working stiff, whose backyard is used as a hiding place for stolen loot.

"Jump Tomorrow:" A Nigerian man questions his arranged marriage when he meets a Spanish spitfire during an American road trip.

"Kiss Of The Spider Woman:" Reissue of the indie hit that earned an Oscar for William Hurt as a homosexual in prison.

"Lumumba:" A dramatization of the life and violent death of 1960s African political leader Patrice Emery Lumumba.

"Sexy Beast:" Violence and deception ensue when an ex-thief (Ray Winstone) is pressured to sign on for a heist. Ben Kingsley co-stars.

"Songcatcher:" Janet McTeer plays a music scholar who travels to Appalachia in 1907 to record ancient ballads.

"Swordfish:" A CIA agent (John Travolta) masterminds the theft of billions in government cash. Halle Berry and Hugh Jackman co-star.

"Tomb Raider:" Angelina Jolie is action hero Lara Croft on a global quest to stop power-mad conspirators. Jolie's father, Jon Voight, co-stars.

"What's The Worst That Could Happen?:" Martin Lawrence and Danny DeVito as a thief and a tycoon in a comic tug-of-war over a good-luck ring.

July

"America's Sweethearts:" Julia Roberts is personal assistant to a superstar (Catherine Zeta-Jones) in a romantic comedy co-starring John Cusack and Billy Crystal.

"Bully:" Larry Clark ("Kids") directs a dramatic recreation of a South Florida murder and its aftermath.

"Cats & Dogs:" A housecat leads a high-tech feline war against the world's canines in this live-action and animated comedy.

"Crazy/Beautiful": Kirsten Dunst is a congressman's daughter who defiantly becomes involved with a Hispanic honors student (Jay Hernandez).

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within:" The video-game comes alive with semi-realistic human characters created by computer animation. Featuring the voices of Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Peri Gilpin and Ving Rhames.

"Greenfingers:" Clive Owen ("Croupier") stars in a story of British prison inmates who become world-class gardeners. Helen Mirren co-stars.

"Hedwig And The Angry Inch:" Adaptation of the off-Broadway musical about a German emigre transsexual who tells her life story through rollicking glam-rock tunes.

"Higher Ed:" Fugees singer Pras stars in a comedy about an inner-city athlete's misadventures when he earns a college track scholarship.

"Italian For Beginners:" A romance about Copenhagen lonelyhearts, shot under minimalist Dogma '95 filmmaking precepts.

"Jurassic Park 3:" Soup's on again for T-Rex and other prehistoric reptiles when Sam Neill, William H. Macy and Tea Leoni get trapped on dinosaur island.

"Kiss Of The Dragon:" Jet Li plays an agent framed for murder in this action thriller co-starring Bridget Fonda.

"Legally Blonde:" A natural blonde (Reese Witherspoon) battles Ivy League snobbery to win back her blueblood beau.

"Lost And Delirious:" Three girls at a boarding school find love and loyalty. Piper Perabo stars.

"Made:" Jon Favreau writes, directs and stars in a crime comedy about a boxing wannabe. Vince Vaughn, Famke Janssen and Peter Falk co-star.

"O:" Julia Stiles and Mekhi Phifer star in a violent retelling of "Othello" set at a private school.

"Planet Of The Apes:" Humans are the lower primates in Tim Burton's new take on the sci-fi classic. Mark Wahlberg, Tim Roth and Helena Bonham Carter star.

"Scary Movie 2:" You knew they were lying when the posters promised "no sequel." The Wayans brothers spoof the horror genre once more.

"The Score:" Robert De Niro, Edward Norton and Marlon Brando conspire on an intricate theft job. Angela Bassett co-stars.

"Sidewalks Of New York:" Edward Burns ("The Brothers McMullen") tells his latest tale of Manhattan heartache. Heather Graham and Stanley Tucci co-star.

"Strictly Sinatra:" A club crooner (Ian Hart) playing dives in Glasgow gets a career boost from a mobster. Kelly MacDonald co-stars.

"Thomas In Love:" The life of a computer shut-in takes dramatic turns when he's signed up for an online dating club.

August

"All Over The Guy:" Opposites attract in this romantic comedy about a twentysomething couple brought together by friends.

"All That Glitters:" Pop star Mariah Carey stars as a singer trying to overcome a tough childhood and the pressures of fame.

"American Outlaws:" The James gang rides again in this Western that stars Colin Farrell, Scott Caan, Timothy Dalton and Kathy Bates.

"American Pie 2:" Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Mena Suvari and Chris Klein offer up seconds on 1999's gross-out hit.

"Apocalypse Now Redux:" Francis Ford Coppola's Vietnam War adaptation of "Heart of Darkness" is enhanced with 53 minutes of previously unreleased footage.

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin:" Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz in the World War II romance of an Italian officer and a Greek belle. John Madden ("Shakespeare in Love") directs.

"The Curse Of The Jade Scorpion:" In his latest comedy, Woody Allen is a 1940s insurance investigator who falls victim to an artifact's hypnotic powers. Helen Hunt co-stars.

"The Deep End:" A mother (Tilda Swinton) goes to extremes to protect her son from the consequences of his relationship with a shady character.

"Ghost World:" Two cool teens (Thora Birch and Scarlett Johansson) reexamine their world and romantic lives as they depart high school.

"Happy Accidents:" A woman (Marisa Tomei) falls for a guy (Vincent D'Onofrio) who thinks he's a time traveler from the year 2470.

"Jay And Silent Bob Strike Back:" Writer-director Kevin Smith's alter-ego Silent Bob and pal Jay (Jason Mewes) from such films as "Clerks" and "Dogma" take center stage.

"Jeepers Creepers:" A sister and brother returning home from college are pursued by a supernatural force.

"John Carpenter's Ghosts Of Mars:" Red planet colonists unearth ancient Martians who co-opt human bodies. Natasha Henstridge and Ice Cube star.

"Knockaround Guys:" Mobsters try to find a bag of cash lost in Montana in this drama starring John Malkovich, Dennis Hopper and Barry Pepper.

"Maybe Baby:" The process of creation is comedy fodder for this flick about a couple (Hugh Laurie and Joely Richardson) trying to have a baby.

"The Monkey's Mask:" Kelly McGillis and Susie Porter star in a lesbian detective thriller about a young poet's murder.

"On The Edge:" A self-destructive teen finds reasons to live as he interacts with patients at a mental hospital. Stephen Rea stars.

"Original Sin:" Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie in a racy thriller about a 19th century Cuban coffee dealer who takes a mail-order bride.

"Osmosis Jones:" Live action and animation tell the story of a man (Bill Murray) whose body is host to a duel between a white blood cell and a lethal virus. Features the voices of Chris Rock and Laurence Fishburne.

"The Princess Diaries:" An American teen (Anne Hathaway) learns she's heir to a European throne and undergoes "princess lessons" from her strict granny (Julie Andrews).

"Punks:" Four homosexual black men share friendship, romantic commiseration—and good tunes by Sister Sledge.

"Raw Deal: A Question Of Consent:" Documentary examines the lurid case of an exotic dancer who accused a fraternity member of rape.

"Rollerball:" Chris Klein, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and LL Cool J have a go at the blood sport in John McTiernan's update of the sci-fi flick.

"Rush Hour 2:" Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker do the mismatched-cop thing again as they travel the globe on the trail of a gangster.

"Serendipity:" A decade after they met, two potential soul mates are reunited in this romance starring John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale.

"Soul Survivors:" A student is tormented by apparitions after surviving a car wreck. Eliza Dushku, Wes Bentley and Casey Affleck star.

"Summer Catch:" A young pitcher (Freddie Prinze Jr.) signs on for a wild summer in minor-league baseball.

"Together:" Love, jealousy and all-around chaos result as Swedish "hippies" share a home in 1975 Stockholm.

"Vulgar:" A downtrodden clown for children's events reinvents himself as a transvestite clown for bachelor parties.

Unscheduled summer releases:

"Bubble Boy:" A youth (Jake Gyllenhall) who lacks disease immunity dons a "bubble suit" and heads to Niagara Falls to stop his would-be girlfriend's wedding.

"Rat Race:" A mega-cast including Whoopi Goldberg, John Cleese and Cuba Gooding Jr. star in a zany dash for cash from director Jerry Zucker ("Airplane!"). *AP*

EDDIE Murphy talks to animals anew in "Doctor Dolittle 2."

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Haley Joel Osment goes from one big project to another

By Nestor U. Torre

OSMENT with Bruce Willis in "The Sixth Sense," the film that made him a star.

OSMENT. Now gets first crack at the best scripts.

On Sunday, May 20, "The Sixth Sense" will be shown on Star Movies (at 9 p.m.) The film showcased the starmaking performance of a previously unheralded child actor, Haley Joel Osment, who got rave reviews for his portrayal of a boy from a broken home who happened to be able to see and talk to ghosts.

Insecurity

Osment's co-star in the film is no less than superstar Bruce Willis, but instead of being ravaged by feelings of insecurity, the juvenile actor gave as well as he took in his scenes with the veteran actor.

Now that his "breakthrough" movie is being shown on television, Osment once again finds himself in the public eye, with the media eager to know what's happened to him since his early triumph in "The Sixth Sense."

Summing up his performing career, Osment recalls that he was only six years old when he made his movie debut as Tom Hank's son in "Forrest Gump." After that, he moved on to bigger roles in two TV series, "Thunder Alley" and "The Jeff Foxworthy Show."

Recurring role

Unfortunately, those two shows turned out to be short-lived. But Osment was too good to remain in the dumps for long. Soon, he was tapped to play a recurring role in "Murphy Brown," as Candice Bergen's son, Avery, during the popular show's final season.

And "Ally McBeal" showcased him in one of its most moving episodes as a cancer-stricken boy who wanted to sue God.

After "The Sixth Sense," Osment became the hottest child actor in Hollywood, getting first crack at the best scripts with major roles for juvenile leads. Unfortunately, the film he chose to do, "Pay It Forward" with Kevin Spacey, was too much of a slickly feel-good movie to rate well with film buffs.

Momentarily glitch

But that's only a momentary glitch in Osment's career, because he still gets offered challenging roles in the best movie projects around.

He's travelled to Poland to shoot the holocaust drama, "Edges of the Lord." And no less than Steven Spielberg has tapped him to star in his new film, "A.I.," based on a futuristic story by the late, great Stanley Kubrick.

Osment's role in "A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)" is particularly challenging, since he plays a boy robot. That hasn't really been attempted before, so Osment, who's now 13 years old, has had to rely on Spielberg to guide him through all that uncharted territory.

Brilliant

"Steven is brilliant and you can practically hear his brain working when you're sitting next to him," Osment gushes. "He comes to the set with all these great ideas and then, when we're shooting, he comes up with more and more—and more! I'm learning so much from him."

Also giving Osment strong support is his father, a former actor who is now his personal acting coach. How do they work together?

"Dad reads the scripts first," Osment explains. "He does a lot of the character study. After we both get ideas about the characters, we do lots of rehearsals, really getting to know the role—so that, when I audition for the role, I can become the character."

Heady excitement

What about the heady excitement of child stardom, which has ruined many a young performer?

"My parents make sure that my feet remain firmly planted on the ground," Osment says. "The opportunities I've had have been given to me by my parents, so I try and make them proud, to do good in school and not get into trouble. I try to be the best kid possible.

"I get an allowance like any normal kid. I clean all our pets' cages—I have two lizards, leopard geckos from Pakistan and two frogs, and the family has a hamster, a dog and some fish!

"I also clean my room, I vacuum. Nothing has changed at all!"

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Diether Ocampo stars in daytime soap

By Edmund L. Sicam

OCAMPO. Also has a film with Rosanna Roces.

DIETHER Ocampo tells us he was disappointed, even hurt, when he didn't get a part in ABS-CBN's primetime soap, "Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan." After all, he had played major characters in dramas like "Mula Sa Puso" and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" and expected to be part of the star-studded cast in the new soap. But Talent Center management had other plans for him and Diether figured out soon enough that viewers may have tired of seeing him with soap queen Claudine Barretto for the past four years.

Diether didn't have to wait long before he got an offer to be the major character in an afternoon soap that would replace the recently concluded "Marinella." Unlike other soaps where the story centers on a heroine, this one focuses on the male lead.

Diether plays Paolo, whose perfect life will one day be shattered by a secret that leads him to a journey of self-discovery, in "Recuerdo de Amor." The soap premiered last Monday and airs daily, right after "MTB."

Playing important roles in the series are Dante Rivero as his indifferent father, Isabel Rivas as his conniving stepmother, Pinky de Leon as his biological mother, and Carlos Morales as his jealous stepbrother. He has two love interests in the soap—Carmina Villaroel and Tin Arnaldo.

Diether is working with a new director, Eric Reyes and initially felt like an outsider because he got used to working with director Wenn Deramas and his production staff. Diether adjusted to the new setup in no time, however.

Does he feel like he has been demoted from primetime to an afternoon slot? The young star doesn't think so, saying this was a great opportunity to prove that he could carry a drama series. Besides, the audience for a daytime soap is large, too.

After his afternoon soap's launch, Diether is looking ahead to the showing of his movie with Rosanna Roces. The principal photography and most of the post-production for the movie have been completed, but director Chito Roño is doing some reediting of the sex scenes because of a stricter

DIETHER/p.C6

Let's go natural and herbal

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

THE PHILIPPINES is moving forward with its production of herbal medicines! A news item reveals that a new addition to Philippine alternative health products is a locally manufactured anti-fungal solution made from extracts of the *akapulko* plant.

Since we live in a very humid tropical country, fungi grow and thrive well under local conditions. Common problems arising from fungal infections are *an-an*, *buni* (ringworm), *alipunga* (athlete's foot) and jock's itch.

The introduction of an anti-fungal ointment that is natural and cheaper than imported brands will surely benefit millions of Filipinos. The *akapulko* ointment will soon be released in the market courtesy of the Department of Science and Technology through its Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

Beneficial

PCHRD-DOST is currently working on transferring the production technologies to Lloyd Laboratories for the output of a number of beneficial Philippine herbal products, including *lagundi* tablets and pediatric syrup, and *sambong* tablets.

Those who are familiar with *lagundi* know how effective it is against flu, cold, cough, and asthma. The pediatric syrup will be fantastic for use by children and babies.

(This is a welcome addition to the Herbycin oregano cough syrup, which we also highly recommend for cough and cold. Herbycin is manufactured in Cebu and is available in Mercury outlets in that city. A friend of mine who lives in Australia makes it a point to bring this cough syrup to Sydney for use by her little boy.)

Another product to be produced and released in the market will be the *sambong* tablet, which is a diuretic and is effective for urolithiasis. The tablet form will be a welcome addition to sambong tea, which is already marketed locally. Of course, we have already tested the efficacy of other herbal teas, such as lagundi tea, sambong tea and even banaba tea.

(A Malaysian housewife orders the banaba tea from the Philippines to send it to her dad in Australia. She says it helps lower his blood sugar levels.)

One other tablet I would like to see produced is the *pansit-pansitan* herbal tablet, which us very useful against arthritis. I personally eat this common weed as a salad and it is highly nutritious as well as delicious. Its medicinal benefits have been experienced by many people, including Filipinos living abroad.

Stomach cramps

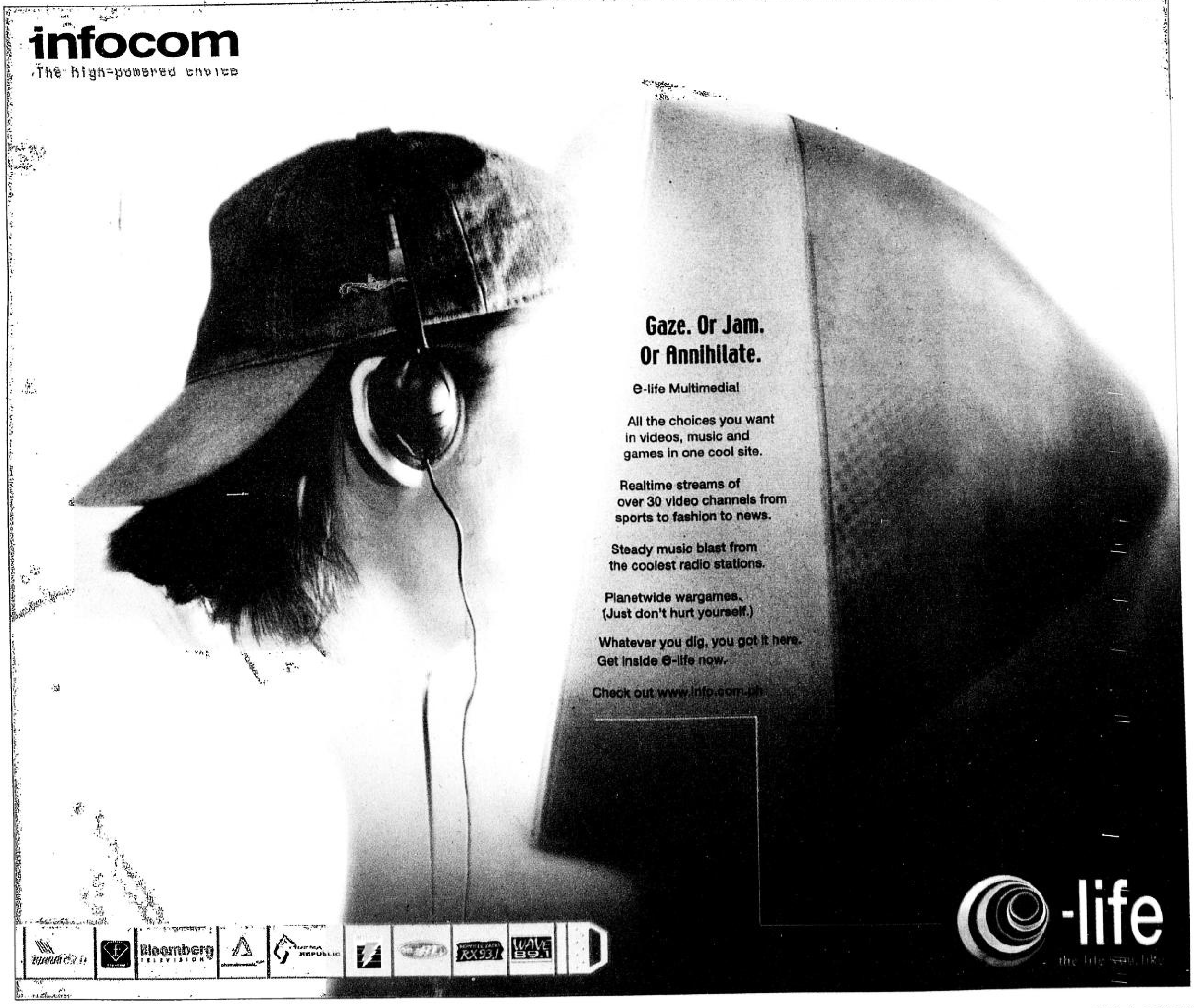
While talking to a friend who lives in Aklan, I learned that her father used to prepare many wonderful herbal drinks that included tea for mothers who recently gave birth, tea to counteract stomach cramps and vomiting, etc.

She explained that there are so many wild plants that abound in the mountains that are very potent against diseases. Unfortunately, some of these wonderful plants are now extinct in her province.

Indeed, our country has a lot to offer not only to its citizens but also people abroad. Our rich natural resources include a wide range of herbal products that need to be tapped, promoted and marketed successfully.

But there is a race against time to discover and preserve Mother Nature's healing gifts before man totally destroys the environment in which they thrive.

Let us work hand in hand with Mother Nature to heal our bodies, our country and our planet. Let's go natural and herbal!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'Mummy' grosses $ 70.1 M in record US debut

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—The money returns. Moviegoers shelled out $70.1 million for "The Mummy Returns," a record for a non-holiday opening weekend in North America.

According to studio estimates, the movie was just $2 million behind the biggest all-time debut, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," which opened on the Memorial Day weekend in 1997.

"Mummy Returns" accounted for 70 percent of the weekend box office among the top 10 films.

"It's a happy Sunday. A happy mummy's day," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, which released the film.

Resurrected priest

Stars Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz, writer-director Stephen Sommers and other key cast and crew members returned for the sequel, in which a resurrected Egyptian priest battles an ancient villain, the Scorpion King, played by professional wrestler The Rock.

Sommers, co-star Oded Fehr and others from the movie cruised theaters Friday to gauge audience reaction.

"We were finding 8-year-olds to 85-year-olds, and they all seemed to love it," Sommers said. "When you have an 85-year-old woman coming up afterward and hugging Oded Fehr and saying, 'It was wonderful,' you know you've done something right."

"The Mummy Returns" surpassed "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace," the previous non-holiday record holder. "Phantom Menace" grossed $64.8 million in its first weekend, though some demand for the "Star Wars" prequel had eased because it opened on a Wednesday.

"The Mummy," a surprise smash two years ago, debuted with $43.4 million.

Fewer theaters

Playing in 3,401 theaters, "Mummy Returns" averaged $20,612 a cinema. "Lost World" and "Phantom Menace," which played in fewer theaters, are the only wide releases that have done better, both averaging nearly $22,000.

"This tells you how hungry the audience is for summer escapist fare," said box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

Critics, however, were not too kind. A fair number of reviewers called it a fun adventure, but many trashed the movie, branding it a dumb special-effects extravaganza.

On the strength of "Mummy Returns," the overall box-office soared. The top 12 movies grossed $102.4 million, up 32 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "Gladiator" opened.

Hollywood revenues are running about 14 percent ahead of last year's record pace and are likely to shatter last year's record box-office total of $7.7 billion.

Big summer movies include "Pearl Harbor," "Shrek," "Tomb Raider," "Atlantis," Steven Spielberg's "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," "Jurassic Park III" and "Planet of the Apes."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures are to be released Monday.

1. "The Mummy Returns," $70.1 million.
2. "Driven," $6.1 million.
3. "Bridget Jones's Diary," $6 million.
4. "Spy Kids," $4 million.
5. "Along Came a Spider," $3.8 million.
6. "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles," $3.2 million.
7. "Blow," $2.4 million.
8 (tie). "The Forsaken," $1.5 million.
8 (tie). "Joe Dirt," $1.5 million.
10. "One Night at McCool's," $1.3 million. *AP*

BRENDAN Fraser and Rachel Weisz are back in "The Mummy Returns."

US music video channel picks Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' as top video

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Michael Jackson's "Thriller," a mini-movie that was more of a pop culture event than a mere music video, topped the list for the US music video channel VH1's "100 Greatest Videos," which the cable music channel released Tuesday.

Precursor

Clocking in at 17 minutes and directed by John Landis, "Thriller," was much hyped before its 1983 premiere on VH1's precursor and sister channel, MTV, and it helped catapult Jackson's album of the same name to the top of the all-time best-seller list in the United States.

The video features Jackson turning into a werewolf after going on a date to a scary movie, then performing one of his signature dance routines with a gaggle of ghouls behind him.

Coming in second was Madonna's "Like a Prayer," which caused a stir for depicting the pop diva kissing a black Jesus figure.

Madonna had six videos on the list, more than any other artist. Her "Justify My Love," which MTV refused to air in 1990 because of its kinky sexual images, came in seventh.

Jackson had the second-highest number of videos on the list with five. The high-tech, black-and-white video for "Scream," a duet with his sister, Janet, was No. 9.

Extravaganza

Several animated videos made the list. Peter Gabriel's colorful, stop-action extravaganza, "Sledgehammer," came in third overall. The video for the Norwegian trio A-ha's "Take on Me," which combined live action and comic book-style pencil drawings, was No. 8.

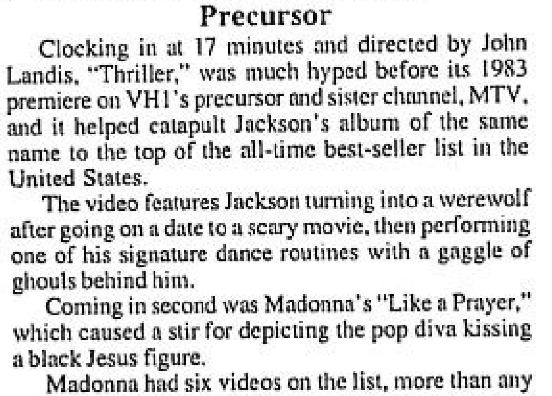
Rounding out the top 10 were Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," the first hit from the pioneering Seattle grunge band, at No. 4; the dramatic "November Rain" by Guns N' Roses at No. 5; Pearl Jam's "Jeremy," with its images of school violence, at No. 6; and Herbie Hancock's mechanical "Rockit" at No. 10.

More than half the videos—53, to be exact—first appeared in the 1980s, the decade when the music video explosion occurred. The oldest video, Bob Dylan's "Subterranean Homesick Blues," was made in 1967. It's No. 28 on the list.

Three of the videos first appeared in 2000: Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Californication" at No. 35; Creed's "With Arms Wide Open" at No. 92; and Bon Jovi's "It's My Life" at No. 97.

The Buggles' "Video Killed the Radio Star," the first video MTV aired when it began life in 1981, only reached No. 79 on the list.

VH1 will air a series of specials on the "100 Greatest Videos" in the United States. A panel of music experts at the channel ranked the videos. *AP*



JACKSON. "Thriller," the album, topped the all-time best-seller list.

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Coens, Lynch back at Cannes film festival

BY JOCELYN NOVECK

CANNES, France—Frances McDormand has some favorite routines when she comes to Cannes with her husband and brother-in-law, aka the Coen brothers: strolling through the old section, visiting the fruit market, sunning on the topless beach.

Yachts

Director David Lynch likes to cruise the Croisette and watch the bobbing yachts from his window at the Carlton Hotel.

The mere fact that the Coens and Lynch have "routines" at Cannes would make many colleagues jealous. While others clamor for a coveted spot at Cannes, these US filmmakers are part of an elite group that gets invited time and again.

The festival loves them, and they love the festival—both for the buzz it generates back home, and for its help in conquering the crucial European market.

For the Coens, it's an especially remarkable relationship.

They're here for the sixth time, and they've only made nine movies.

It seems they could make a toothpaste commercial, and it would be selected for Cannes.

"We're not arguing," laughs Joel Coen.

This year, of four US films in the main selection, three are from Cannes "darlings." Besides the Coens and Lynch, Sean Penn, presenting "The Pledge," is so liked here that the festival threw him a tribute last year.

Another favorite is Francis Ford Coppola, whose "Apocalypse Now" got a crucial boost when it won the Palme d'Or in 1979. He's back where it all started with a longer version, "Apocalypse Now Redux."

Among non-US filmmakers, similar "darling" status is accorded to Lars von Trier, whose "Dancer in the Dark" won the Palme d'Or last year, and Manuel de Oliveira, the 92-year-old Portuguese director who's presented 10 films here.

Vague theories

The much younger Coens can proffer only vague theories of why they're so popular at Cannes and in Europe, where their crafted and quirky films generally perform better than back home.

McDormand, who won an Oscar for the Coens' "Fargo," says that "European audiences have always understood them better than US audiences. It's about education. European audiences are more educated in film."

Her husband isn't so sure. "I don't think I'd say that," Joel Coen says. "I think Europeans like American culture, especially the history of American culture."

Ethan Coen, sitting beside him, takes mock umbrage at the suggestion his films succeed here because they're small, quirky, and intellectual. "Our films aren't successful small movies!" he says. "They're failed mainstream movies."

FROM left, The Coen brothers, Ethan and Joel, Billy Bob Thornton and Frances McDormand promote their movie "The Man Who Wasn't There" in Cannes. AP

Pastoral

Lynch can't do much better at explaining his own success here.

The director of "Blue Velvet" and "Twin Peaks" won a Palme d'Or at Cannes with "Wild at Heart" in 1990, then surprised everyone when he brought the quiet, pastoral "The Straight Story" here nine years later.

He's here for the fourth time this year with "Mulholland Drive," about an accident on the famed road in the Hollywood hills.

"Very generally, Europeans appreciate abstractions more," he says. But he doesn't care to analyze. "It's always a thrill to come," he says. "I just like being here, with all this film around."

The Coens also have a Palme d'Or on their resume, for "Barton Fink" in 1991. They took the directing prize for "Fargo" five years later. Last year, they were back with "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"—their most successful film at home, due to a memorable soundtrack of American roots music and the considerable presence of George Clooney.

Crime story

Now they're back with a visually stunning film noir set in 1949 small-town California. "The Man Who Wasn't There," which opened Sunday, is a classic hard-boiled crime story starring Billy Bob Thornton as a chain-smoking, passive barber; McDormand as his philandering wife; James Gandolfini of "The Sopranos" as her temperamental boss; and Michael Badalucco of "The Practice" as a chatterbox brother-in-law.

Thornton is admirable as a man of few words—"Me, I don't talk much, I just cut the hair"—whose wife's infidelity leads him to dabble, tragically, in blackmail. But the real star here is the look of the film, which was shot in color but printed in elegant black-and-white, creating a real period feel.

The film has garnered mixed reviews so far, and the Coens say frankly that they don't expect it to do as well as the more pleasant "O Brother."

"It's riskier, darker," Joel says. "Our goal isn't to make more money each time. Just to be able to make more films." *AP*

Objective reportage before entertainment on 'Saksi'

BY VERON DIONISIO

(Conclusion)

EVEN after 10 years on the job, Vicky Morales still feels jittery and nervous just before she faces the TV cameras. "I think I'll always feel that way. You'll never know *kasi, baka* you may ask the wrong question, *di ba*? But it's definitely less stressful now," she smiles.

Involvement

Her involvement in "Saksi" starts on her way to the studio at around 4 o'clock in the afternoon. "In my car, I turn on the radio and tune in to AM stations to know the issues of the day. This is my way of preparing myself for the show. I wouldn't want to be caught off-guard when last-minute changes or late-breaking news confront us."

At the studio, she immediately reads the script and edits some portions to suit her speaking style. She explains: "We're allowed to edit, as long as we don't change the content. Then we talk to writers and reporters regarding our concerns on some issues, particularly when we have live interviews. We need to know what sort of questions we should ask the guests."

MORALES. 10 years on the job.

Alternative

Vicky is proud that "Saksi" has managed to give viewers an alternative. Although she hesitates to specify the show's comparative advantage, she believes that what sets it apart from other news programs on TV is its friendly manner of delivering the news.

"One of the more significant factors is the fact that Mike (Enriquez, her co-anchor) and I are genuinely fond of each other. And we've continually provided viewers action-packed, fast-paced news reporting," she says.

"But more than this, we're proud of our staff, our team on the field. I can personally vouch for their professionalism. Our reporters are very competitive and competent."

Vicky attributes the program's success to the reporters' resourcefulness and vigilance. "I've been constantly amazed at how they have been able to get to the people they need to interview. It's a tribute to their persistence and commitment in maintaining personal connections with the right people," she stresses

Exclusion

In terms of the daily news line-up, as anchor, she refrains from directly getting involved. She can suggest but does not demand exclusion of certain news items. "That way, we maintain our objectivity. The moment we face the camera, our task is to bring the news to the audience. And as we do that, we detach ourselves from the news and forget about our personal biases and views," Vicky explains.

"That's the way it has to be. We've remained fair in presenting the news. It seldom happens that my personal views run counter to the news we're delivering."

Is she satisfied with the way "Saksi" has been handling the news? "Oh, yes," her quick reply, smiling. "I believe we wouldn't have lasted this long, had we been ineffective. I think we have managed to blend pressing issues with the lighter stuff. Viewers don't really want to be hit with serious stuff all the time."

Pressed for time

Anything she wants to change or improve in the program? "We're constantly pressed for time. There are other stories we would want to include, but due to time constraints, for every five news items we report, 10 items get bumped off. And that's frustrating at times."

That's one of the limitations of the medium. On a 30-minute news program, it's impossible to cover all the significant events that people need to know about. And like any other news programs on television, "Saksi" can't be a witness to everything that is happening. So, viewers need to realize that what a newscast tells them may not entirely constitute what's happening out there.

Diether Ocampo . . .

(From page C4)

MTRCB.

Diether describes his bedroom scenes with Osang as truly sizzling. "*Dati kasi, puro daya,*" he explains. He's all praises for the sexy star who took the lead whenever he lost his rhythm during the two-hour shoot.

These two projects are important to Diether because he hasn't been visible on the big and small screens for quite a while. If viewer response is enthusiastic, then he can move on to other challenging assignments. The young actor, who turns 25 on July 19, is at the prime of his life and is out to prove to his bosses that he can be a major force in the business.

Who does he turn to when it comes to evaluating his performance? Diether says he depends a lot on his directors but his No. 1 critic is Deo Endrinal, his manager. "He gives me the real score," he explains. "*Hindi niya ako binobola.* He tells it like it is."

We asked him to give an example of Deo's negative comments. "He's always telling me to do things differently. '*Nagawa mo na yan. Iunulit mo lang,*' he would say. He's always challenging me to outdo myself," says Diether.

One other project occupying the actor's time these days is the completion of his new house in Quezon City. Last year, he bought a three-story townhouse, which he is renovating to suit his lifestyle, with the help of an interior designer.

Right now, he is staying with his family in a house that he also bought for them He felt he needed his own place where he can retreat to whenever he needs privacy When he finally settles down, he's planning to buy an even bigger house

Invasion of privacy

What is it about corpses that fascinates our TV producers? Do the viewers really need to see shots of dead bodies in morgues or lying on the ground?

Last Wednesday, we were watching GMA's "Imbestigador" which featured the assassination of two political figures. It was bad enough that the camera lingered on their remains in the morgue. Did the show *have* to air close-ups of the entry wounds and their bloody faces as host Mike Enriquez explained the gory details of the killing?

That's invasion of privacy of the worst kind. We wonder how the producers would feel if their loved ones were subjected to the same treatment!

Election coverage

We were quite impressed at the amount of hardware used to cover this year's polls The two major networks had reports emanating from many remote points in the country.

There was a time when the stations could only come up with live audio feeds. This year, we managed to catch the action on video in many parts of the country, including one showing the speedboat carrying a news crew sinking in the ocean, and their rescue. There were also lots of footage of election activity, not just static shots of the TV correspondents.

The advanced equipment contrasted with the low-tech nature of the voting process itself, where the ballots had to be counted manually and ballot boxes had to be transported from the precincts to gymnasiums. So while television had the capability of delivering the news fast, it was covering an event that was happening at a turtle's pace!

When will we do things like in the US elections when, except for the Gore-Bush fight last year, the winners were declared on the day of the election itself?

AM/FM

Mindanao's hard-hitting broadcasters keep listeners glued to the radio

BY RITO P. ASILO

IT HAS been sometime since we last listened to a radio program in Mindanao, so it was such a treat for us to get the chance to do it last week when we visited Cagayan de Oro upon the invitation of "Nasaan si Hesus?" producer/composer Mrs. Lourdes Bing Pimentel, Senate President Nene Pimentel's wife, at the height of the electoral campaign period.

Commentators

If you think Manila's top anchors, like Joe Taruc, Arnold Clavio, Jay Sonza, Ted Failon and Noli de Castro, are hard-hitting and fearless, then you have not heard Mindanao's top radio news and public affairs commentators and anchors. We randomly heard radio broadcasts of news programs of dxJR and Reuben Canoy's dxCC and found this out for ourselves. It's like listening to a blow-by-blow boxing account of competing political parties!

In fact, we witnessed actual reporting by a field reporter from another station covering the city's campaign sorties. We were impressed by the newsman's command of his beat. We wouldn't be surprised if this was where Miriam Defensor-Santiago got her "I eat bullets for breakfast" sound bites.

Annoying

But it was annoying to hear the reporter talk, his voice grating and loud, as an eyewitness of a public event, of something that did not actually happen! He was describing hordes of people who were not there! And we were there beside him!

There were people, alright, but the way he described them, it seemed like a huge throng had flocked to another miracle in Agoo. Among the figures of speech, it looks like hyperbole is a favorite among radio newsmen. Talk about influencing public perception . . .

Despite Mindanao reporters' penchant for exaggeration, they are an undoubtedly entertaining bunch. No wonder, everywhere you go in the small-but-beautiful city's nooks and crannies, a lot of people are tuned in, mesmerized by the suspense and excitement of their favorite fictional soap serials and real-life stories as they happen.

If you tire of all the anger, resentment and political psych-wars you hear on the AM band, Nation Broadcasting Corporation's name-based FM radio programming (Joey's Rhythms 92.3 in Metro Manila, Sandy's Rhythms in Cagayan de Oro) is the perfect foil to all that.

In NBC's unique regional programming, the station has come up with different names to represent it in different places around the country: Donna in Cabanatuan; Lovely in San Pablo; Nikki in Naga; Alex in Legaspi; Jamie in Bacolod; Jake in Butuan; Marco in Cotabato; and Anna in Gen. Santos.

Then there's Jesse (Baguio), Charlie (Cebu), Danni (Davao), Rocky (Iligan) and Tony (Zamboanga).

Quite a different concept, right? But, really, what's with all these names? What's next? Perfecta, Ciriaca, Torcuato, Amoeba, Vampira? Why not Miriam?

Relaxed mood

On our flight back to Manila, we learned that NBC Cagayan de Oro has teamed up with Philippine Airlines to get passengers in a relaxed mood before their flight by offering a wide repertoire of retro, pop jazz, r&b and soul that spanned three decades.

It boasts of a funky mix of well-loved classics that have been given new arrangements, like 3d's "Georgy Porgy," which was also recorded by gifted soul vocalist Eric Benet two years ago, and the Latino-sounding Swedish song by Lisa Nilsson, "Vad Du Ser Ar Vad Du Far". Weird title, huh? Try listening to it. The groove is infectious.

You'll find these songs in NBC's 14-track album compilation "Joey's Rhythms," released early last year under Rock Records. The list includes the Neil Sedaka original "Laughter in the Rain" reworked by Mondo Grosso; Toto's "Africa" by Genai; Earth, Wind and Fire's "Fantasy" by Rhythm Logic and Maysa Leak; Eric Tagg's beautiful "Never Too Far"; "My Cherie Amour," Stevie Wonder's huge hit of the '70s, revived by the Nylons; Eric Carmen's "Isn't It Romantic?," among others.

NBC's choice of songs sets it apart from other jazz-oriented radio stations in the country because the featured songs, despite their jazzed-up arrangements, are distinctly pop. You can easily hum along with them, and maybe try some vocal calisthenics yourself, to go with the free-wheeling music.

RX 93.1 launches 'Band Breakout 2001'

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 has just launched the second edition of the "RX Band Breakout," its exclusive Artist Hunt for talented, unsigned bands that deserve to be discovered by a larger audience.

Spin-off

The RX Band Breakout was envisioned as a spin-off competition of the KBP Golden Dove Award-winning musical program, "The RX Concert Series," and one of the station's efforts to promote outstanding Filipino musical talent. At stake are invaluable exposure on "Manila's Hottest" pop music station, a recording contract, and a cash prize of P50,000.

Last year's contest yielded a wealth of talent and showcased a multitude of styles. The bands that emerge as finalists were Cousin Ed, Catbag Transistor, Lilian Mayflower, Bent, and Rave. Cousin Ed was adjudged the Grand Prize Winner on the finals night at the Hard Rock Café, Makati.

The 2001 edition of "Band Breakout" will be conducted in a slightly different manner. Qualified bands may submit their entries only during a specified period, April 15 to June 30, 2001.

Bands must comprise at least three members, with at least two instrument players. Entries on CD or cassette formats must contain at least one original song and one cover performance.

Semi-finalists

After the application period, nine to 15 semi-finalists will be chosen whose entries will be played on the "Front Act" portion of the "RX Concert Series," and who will be given the chance to perform live at Hard Rock Café Makati. The Grand Finals will be held on Oct. 17, 2001.

Other RX 93.1 activities in May include: premieres of the blockbuster movies "Someone Like You," and "The Mummy Returns;" the riotous "RX Summer Stick-On" (held for the first time as an evening stickering event) at Cactus Bar and Grill in Libis, and the annual summer outing for listeners, "Island Castaway," held at Island Cove in Cavite.

The station recently sent lucky listener Jervis de Jesus and his family on an all-expense paid holiday in Boracay as part of his Grand Prize in the "King Babajigalu's Getaway" on-air promo.

Recording artist Maxine has also joined RX 93.1 renowned air staff, bringing her wit and vibrant personality to the station's daily afternoon programming.

Heno de Pravia
How long does it last?

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Alessandra de Rossi steps out of her big sister's shadow

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

ALESSANDRA de Rossi believes that auditioning for her role in "Azucena" was the best thing that happened to her. "I didn't know that it was an audition. What was funny was I read my horoscope that day and it said my lucky number was 24; my number at the audition was 24. Flattered *ako* that they picked me," Alessandra grins.

Alessandra is giggly, bubbly and a bit tomboyish. She loves to pose for photographs and has no qualms about doing re-takes. Acting with Ricky Davao and Glydel Mercado didn't make her nervous. "There was one scene *na pinaliliguan ako ni* Tita Glydel, stepmom *ko kasi siya*, 18 takes *iyon* but after the 18th take, I finally internalized my role."

Having regular TV shows like "Beh Bote Nga" and "Biglang Sibol Bayang Imposibol" is slowly helping her get out of her older sister Assunta's shadow.

Assunta wants to fit into the sexy mold while Alessandra prefers to follow Maricel Soriano's footsteps. "I want to be like Maricel because she's very versatile. She's an equally effective actress in drama, comedy and action."

Mylene Dizon changes

Mylene Dizon looks at her move to be daring onscreen as a sign of maturity. She feels that she's sensible and responsible enough to make that change. Her family, friends and boyfriend, Ira Cruz of the Passage band, support her. After baring in "Gatas," Mylene makes life miserable for Claudine Barreto in "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Even if she plays an unfeeling and manipulative woman in "Sa Dulo," friends say that Mylene is sweet and sentimental. She considers her red, old, tattered Benetton knapsack and Sisley sneakers as her most precious possessions.

Mylene has had the sneakers and knapsack for 10 years and she's retrieved them from the trashcan twice!

"I just love them and don't want to part with them. I guess I'm like that even with friends. *Hindi ako pabago-bago.* I want to keep friends and things for as long as I can," Mylene reveals.

Jaya acts like a true diva

Jaya was the featured artist in "Crossover Presents" at the Captain's Bar in Mandarin Oriental Manila a few weeks ago and her comic, spontaneous antics got as much applause as Jon Santos.

Her upbeat version of "Don't You Worry About a Thing" pleased the corporate crowd. But they enjoyed her slow ballads, "If I Believe," "Invisible War," "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways," and "Winter's Gone" more.

She was in an emotional and pensive mood as she sang those love songs. She even cried as she got to the chorus of "Winter's Gone."

Jaya has apparently inherited her mom's (Elizabeth Ramsey) comic timing and playfulness. She gave in to the crowd's plea and sang several requests, copying the singing style and mannerisms of the original artist in the process.

She copied Liza Minnelli's Broadway medley; Regine's high-pitched "On the Wings of Love" complete with vocal histronics and big hand movements; Lea Salonga's "A Whole New World" with an American accent; and impersonated a Chinese VJ as she introduced the last song, "Get Here."

Jaya credits her mom for her no-nonsense and down-to-earth attitude. "My mom's so free-spirited, she's such a non-show biz person. Sometimes *sumusobra lang* because she doesn't know when to stop!

"I learned how to be strong because of her. We went been through a lot in the States, *natutulog pa kami sa sahig*, (before I ran away at 18)," Jaya shares.

No regrets for Nora Aunor

Superstar Nora Aunor may be lagging behind incumbent Camarines Sur Governor Luis Villafuerte in the poll tallies but she remains calm and composed. "I have learned to accept whatever is given to me. *Kung anong ibigay, salamat. Kung anong ipagkait, salamat din. Sa dami ng dinaanan natin sa buhay, natuto na tayong maging matibay, mas bukas ang isipan. Kung para sa iyo, para sa iyo; kung hindi, tanggapin mo ng maluwag,*" she says.

She won't deny though that she feels sad, considering this is her first attempt at politics. Aunor was the first major Erap supporter to turn against the ousted president last January, which prompted many others to follow.

"*Wala akong pinagsisisihan sa lahat ng nangyari sa buhay ko. Wala akong babaguhin dahil lahat yon ay nakatulong sa paghubog sa akin,*" she says.

Aunor will turn a year older on Monday. She remains undaunted, believing that there is more to life than winning.

The actress needed 18 takes to get one scene in 'Azucena' right

AQUINO. Soft and wimpy?

AUNOR. More to life than winning.

For us, Nora has nothing more to prove. She is one of the best actresses and singers to have graced the silver screen. Her colorful saga, including the many ups and downs she has experienced, will continue to affirm that life can beautiful if we learn our lessons well.

Happy Birthday Ate Guy!

Wonderboy Wunderlich

German pop sensation Christian Wunderlich (pronounced wunderlish) is surprised that he has conquered the Asian music market without much effort. The 21-year old, blue-eyed blond has embarked on an Asian promo tour to see for himself how well his music has been received in this part of the globe.

Wunderlich is in Manila to promote his single "Why Goodbye," penned by hitmaker Dianne Warren. He will also be part of the much-awaited comeback concert of the boy band Westlife when it performs at the Araneta Coliseum on May 29.

Wunderlich is expected to perform some of the better songs in his album, like "That's My Way To Say Goodbye," "So in Love" and "Forever Tonight."

Back in his country, this singing wonderboy has successfully combined two careers: singing and acting. He is a much-sought-after actor in German TV series and soaps.

Carlo Aquino is growing up fast

Things are looking rosy for gifted young actor Carlo Aquino. He feels lucky that good roles continue to come his way, considering that there is so much competition around.

"*Maswerte talaga ako dahil hindi naman ako yung* matinee idol *na tisoy. Pero nakatulong siguro yung Pinoy* looks *ko dahil mas*-credible *daw para sa mga* roles *na mas* challenging," he explains.

Take the case of the recent Joey Reyes film, "Minsan May Isang Puso," where Aquino plays the lead character Boyet. Aquino pits talents with Ricky Davao, Anna Capri and Jacklyn Jose in this heart-warming movie about rebuilding lost relationships. Aside from the wonderful ensemble acting, the movie scores in the technical aspects like music, script, and editing.

Aquino shares that he enjoys TV work a lot, citing his regular stint in youth-oriented light dramas like "Tabing Ilog" and "G-mik."

He is not bothered that some quarters find him soft and wimpy. "Okay *lang sa akin yon, kesa naman ang* image *ko, mayabang pero hindi naman malalim,*" he says.

Colombian soap opera with ugly duckling heroine winding down

By Margarita Martinez

BOGOTA, Colombia—Violence is tearing their nation apart.

Unemployment hasn't been this bad since the 1930s. But what has many Colombians on edge these days is the fate of their most beloved TV character ever—an accountant with braces, glasses, a snorting laugh and facial hair.

Phenomenal run

"Betty La Fea" is winding down after a phenomenal year-and-a-half run. Given Colombia's unabashed obsession with beautiful women and beauty contests, the show's smashing success is all the more remarkable.

Exhausted actors and the screenwriter who penned more than 300 episodes are ready for a rest; so fans in Colombia and 21 other countries are wondering how they will get their daily fix of Betty once the show ends.

"I'm going to miss it, because it's been a lot of fun," said Elkin Tovar, a 35-year-old chauffeur. "But it will also be a bit of a break, because watching the show so often has become a form of slavery."

The finale is expected to be broadcast in Colombia in May, although the exact date has not been set because the final installments are still being written. In some countries where earlier episodes are being aired, the last episode will be aired later.

Uplifting message

Never before has a Colombian soap opera caught on like "Betty the Ugly One." The show's humor and uplifting message—that intelligence and integrity will triumph over skin-deep beauty—has proved a winning combination.

About one in five Colombians is tuning in. Worldwide, the show claims 80 million viewers, across Latin America and as far away as Hungary and Israel.

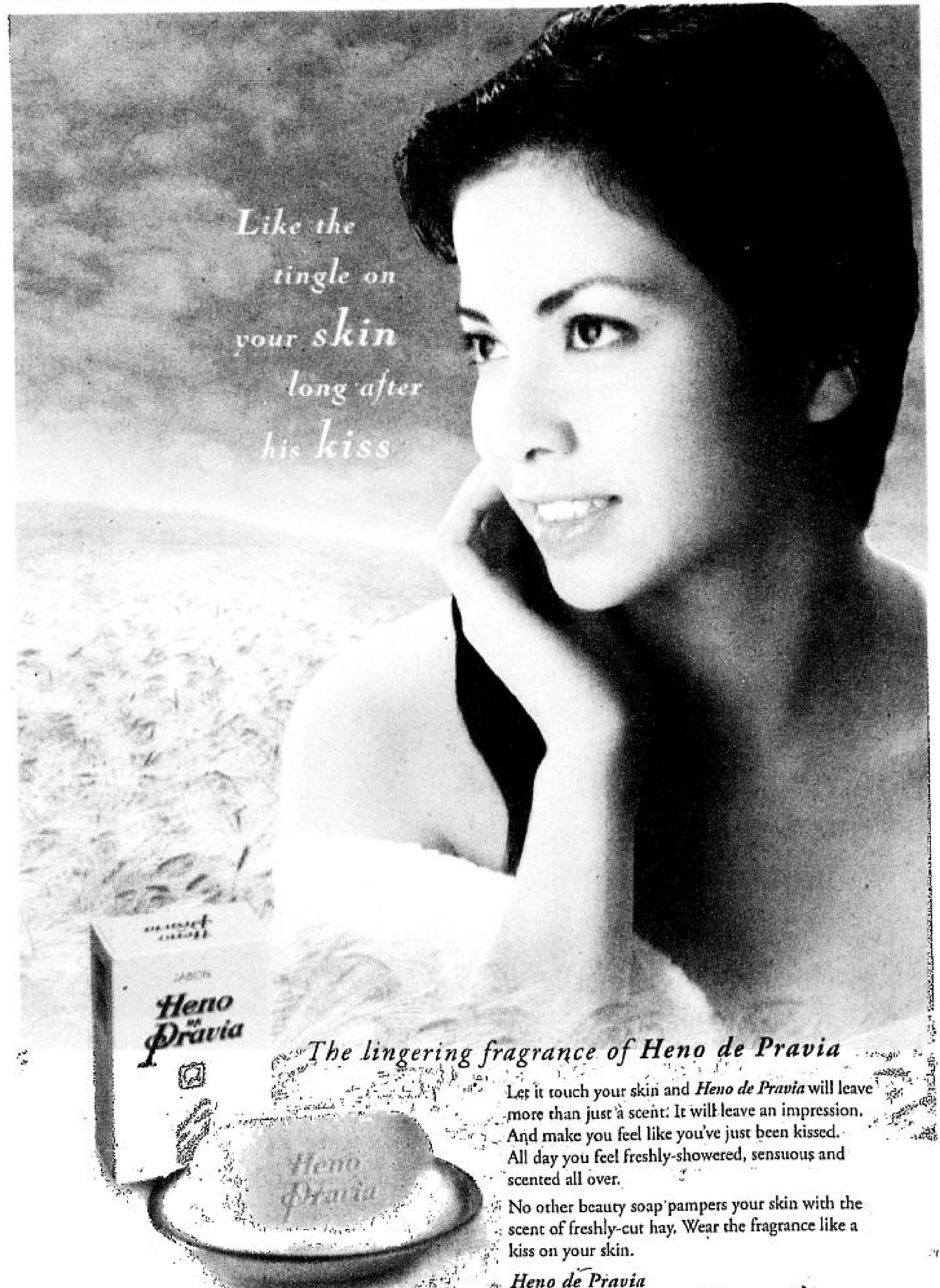
In the United States, the show is aired by the Spanish-language Telemundo network, which is reportedly trying to gain the rights to a spinoff.

"Betty" almost single-handedly rescued from financial ruin the Colombian TV network that created it, RCN, and it has lifted Ana Maria Orozco, the Colombian actress who plays Betty, to stardom across Latin America.

It's a morality play about a woman defying the odds—a lowly, awkward accountant struggling upward through a modeling agency filled with gorgeous models and taunting co-workers.

On the way, viewers have watched her gradually gain self-confidence, turn down a hefty bribe, and finally take over as chief executive. *AP*

ANA Maria Orozco, who plays Betty in "Betty La Fea" is now a big star in Latin America. She's shown here with the actor who plays the character of Don Armando.



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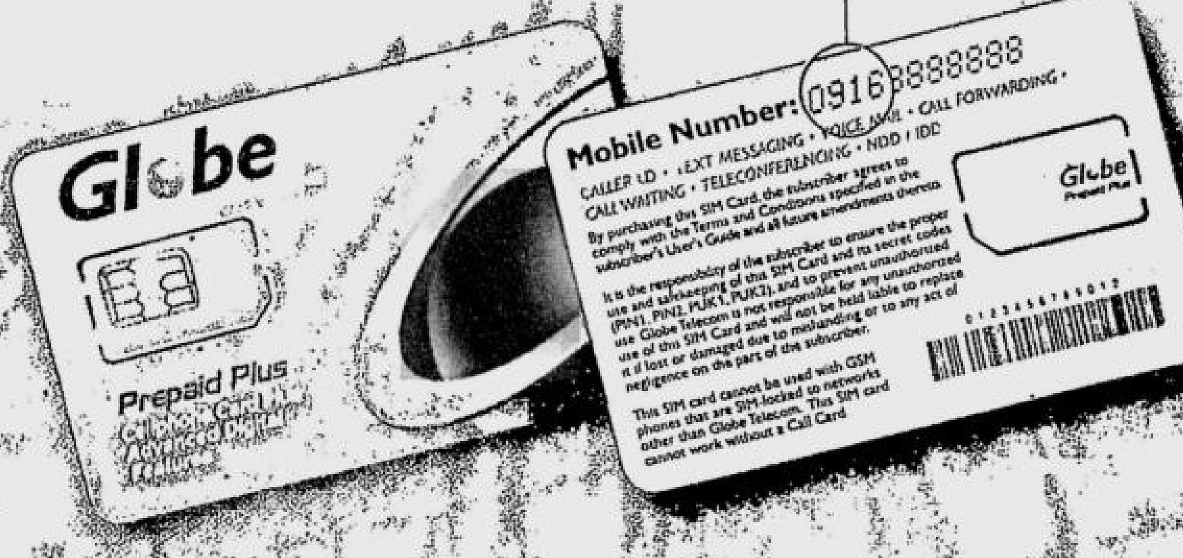

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New ‘Apocalypse’ is longer, sexier, funnier

By David Germain

CANNES, France—Flirting with financial disaster from "Apocalypse Now," Francis Ford Coppola found the road to salvation at the Cannes Film Festival.

DIRECTOR Francis Ford Coppola and lead actor Martin Sheen have aged since ‘Apocalypse’ was first released in 1979, but their film hasn't and continues to fascinate viewers in its expanded form.

Top honor

The "work-in-progress" version he showed at Cannes in 1979 won the festival's top honor, the Palme d'Or, and the Vietnam epic went on to critical and commercial success that pulled Coppola out of a sinkhole of debt resulting from the production.

Coppola returned to this year's festival with the rendering of "Apocalypse Now" that he did not think he could get away with then: A three-hour, 16-minute cut with refreshing humor, a restored love scene and new insights into Marlon Brando's character.

"I think there had been concern and advice that to make our money back, we had to make it as much like an action genre war film as we could, which means, kind of, all-male action and tension," Coppola said in an interview.

So many darkly comic or romantic scenes wound up on the cutting-room floor.

Delays and disasters

Financed by Coppola himself, "Apocalypse Now" was fraught with delays and disasters, including a typhoon that shut down production in the Philippines and a heart attack that disabled one of the stars, Martin Sheen.

Bad press mounted, the budget doubled to $32 million and Coppola was on the verge of losing his family's wine estate to cover his debts.

After positive reaction at Cannes, Coppola released the movie and made his money back, though he wound up in deep debt again with his next film, the light musical "One From the Heart," which bombed.

Last year, Coppola got together with Walter Murch, an editor on the original, and sifted through raw footage to create the new version, "Apocalypse Now Redux." It runs an hour longer, but Coppola said audiences may find it moves more briskly than the 1979 cut.

More absorbing

"Ironically, I think it plays better for the public," Coppola said. "I think it's more absorbing and therefore plays faster in a funny way than the old version because it has more facets. It has humor. It has women, thank God."

"Apocalypse Now Redux" opened in French theaters last weekend. It debuts in selected countries later this year, including the United States in August.

Inspired by Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," the movie recounts a nightmarish journey upriver through Vietnam by Capt. Willard (Sheen), ordered to execute the maverick Col. Kurtz (Brando), who rules a tribal outpost decorated with rotting corpses.

New scene

One new scene sheds light on why Kurtz—inexplicably deranged in the original—went off the deep end. As he holds Willard prisoner in a shed, Kurtz reads magazine articles about the war, condemning the reports for their optimistic assessment of US war efforts.

Kurtz quotes an intelligence analyst who told President Nixon that "things felt much better and smelled better" in Vietnam. Then Kurtz asks Willard, his captive, "How do they smell to you, soldier?"

"He always seemed like a madman in the old film, but now he's talking in a dispassionate way about the hypocrisy of news coverage," said Kim Aubry, a producer on "Apocalypse Now Redux." "You can read a lot more into his character now."

French plantation

Nearly half of the 53 minutes of restored material is taken up by Willard's visit to a French plantation. There, Willard witnesses a fierce dinner table debate on the French settlers' stake in the land and why they refuse to leave amid the chaos of war.

Willard also has a dream-like affair with a French widow (Aurore Clement), who tells him he has two sides, "one that loves, and one that kills."

The movie "is more complete now in the new version," said Clement, whose entire part was cut from the 1979 release. "You have sentiment, familiarity. You have sensuality. More life. Martin Sheen expresses himself more."

Sheen's character, a stoic footsoldier in the original, is shown in the restored footage mischievously swiping the beloved surfboard of a beach-crazed colonel (Robert Duvall) and trading helicopter fuel with stranded Playboy playmates in exchange for sex for the men on his patrol boat.

"This is really a rebirth of the film in a new world in which it could be long and in which it could be slightly more ambitious," Coppola said. "That's why I call it ‘redux.’ It's like a rebirth of it. It's a remaking of it." *AP*

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FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IN LAYMAN-SPEAK, when you say that a person has "K," it means he has "Karapatan" of "Kakayahan." This week, I write about a different "K;" that is, broadcaster Kaye Dacer, who possesses the same virtues.

Voice

I first heard of Kaye when ABS-CBN's top man Lito Balquedria asked me into his office one day to listen to a "voice." The voice, Lito raved, sounded just like Korina Sanchez's. He then informed me that he had succeeded in getting this "voice" to join our DZMM family.

And so Kaye became a "*komentarista*" at dzMM. Since my program is sandwiched between her shows "Aksyon Ngayon" (from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.) and "Pasada Sais Treinta" (4:30 to 6 p.m.), it was inevitable that we bumped into each other on almost a daily basis.

Admittedly, I was surprised that Kaye Dacer was not only a voice—she was also a looker! She is a pretty lady with soulful eyes that had (at least it seemed to me) a world of forgetting to do.

But if she was sad or had problems, she never showed it. The Kaye I met and came to know was all energy and enthusiasm. I can say that I was able to witness her growth as a broadcaster from the time she co-hosted "Pasada Sais Trenta" with Mayor Alfredo Lim up to now that the latter has temporarily begged off from the show in lieu of his re-election bid as Mayor of Manila.

Survivor

Eventually, we became close and she started confiding things to me that proved I was right in assuming that Kaye was a loner—and a survivor. If I could only divulge the many experiences and situations Kaye has weathered, you'd hardly believe she's just in her 20s.

Recently, I got an update on what's going on with Kaye when we had the chance to dine together at Aresi's. She had just finished with "Pasada Sais Trenta" and so we hied off to the restaurant. In between chats concerning various issues (both personal and national), remarks on boys who came in and out ("*andami palang gwapo dito*," Kaye gushed) and talk about our trade, I got to know Kaye in-depth.

Though she took up Interior Design, Kaye became a broadcaster for the National Youth Commission when she was just 21 years old. When Kaye transferred to DZMM, she was not aware that she was taking over the radio program of Ted Failon, a broadcasting superstar. Worse, she was also unaware that DZMM was going to pair her with the seasoned Mayor Alfredo Lim—and on primetime, no less!

But Kaye was not about to let dzMM think they had made a wrong choice. Feigning confidence and self-assurance, she met with Lim one *merienda* just before the show.

"*Ano ba'ng ginagawa ko dito*? Will we share the same views? How do you share the same views with someone as experienced as Mayor Lim? Hello—crimebuster *kaya 'to?*" she remembers thinking, nervously aware that she did not even undergo any training or seminar.

Still, she could not back down, if only because this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance, a dream come true for any neophyte broadcaster.

Voracious reader

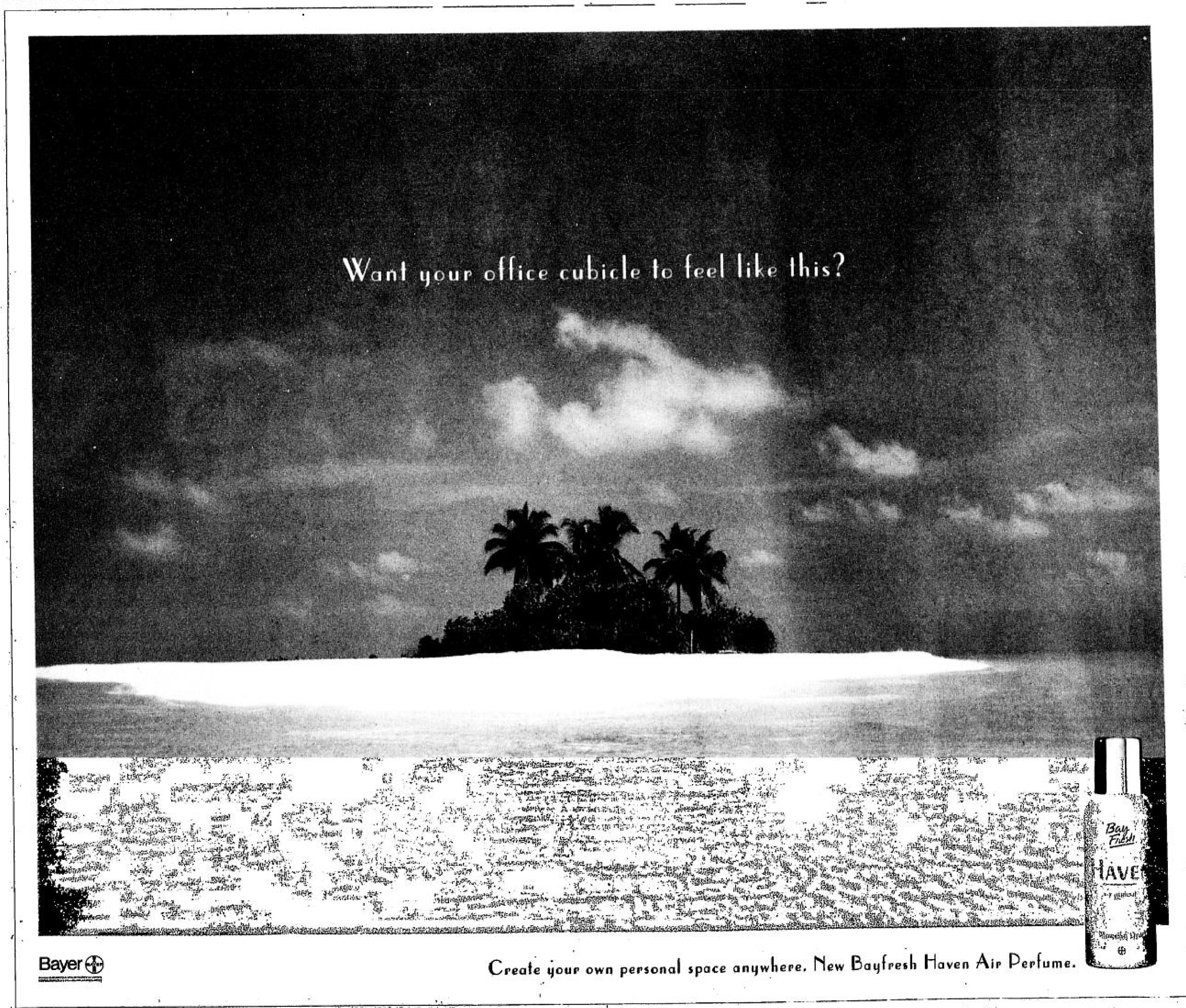
On the first day of their program, Kaye felt ill. Though she's a voracious reader and has always kept herself abreast of the latest goings-on, she was in awe of the mayor. But ever the brave one, Kaye did not let on that her knees were shaking.

For several months after the pilot, Kaye carefully mastered the style of hosting the program with the Mayor. Initially, Kaye was always on guard ("*parang basketbolista*," she said) and on her toes whenever Lim would give his punchlines. "*Minsan kasi, akala mo hindi* joke, *yun pala* joke *na*. He looks so stern, so strict!" Kaye said.

As time passed, Kaye got to know Lim's style and developed a real friendship with him (he'd often give her gifts or send her food and *pasalubong*). She described Lim as a no-nonsense person who's very transparent. He's also a talker ("but that's because he knows so much") and Kaye often had to put a period to Lim's sentences.

THE OTHER/p.D3

DACER. Dream come true.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Kuh sings Streisand's songs at Manila Hotel

MONTAGE

BARBRA Streisand, Kuh Ledesma and Manila Hotel—three names that bring to mind elegance, sophistication and style.

These three class acts come together in "Kuh Sings Streisand," a special one-night-only dinner concert at The Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion on May 26.

Kuh, an avowed Streisand fan, will reprise some of the American legend's biggest hits like "The Way We Were," "Some Good Things Never Last," "People" and "You Don't Bring Me Flowers.

Special guests are Regine Velasquez and Chad Borja with Rey Cristobal as musical director.

'MTV Pilipinas 2001'

Music lovers have until May 25 to vote for their Most Favorite music video in seven categories in "MTV Pilipinas 2001." The awarding rites will be held on June 8 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

New artist Kyla leads the group of nominees with five nominations including one for Best New Artist and Best Video. Longtime favorite Parokya ni Edgar follows with four nominations and Slapshock, Gary V and Jessa Zaragoza with three.

New feature from Tessie Tomas

Regular viewers of Tessie Tomas' "Feel at Home," aired Saturdays at 11 a.m. on ABS-CBN, will have something new to look forward to with the segment called "Amazing Houses." In today's episode, the focus is on the unique bamboo house of Filipino-Chinese architect Ning Tan. Also in today's episode are features on bathroom accessories and easy home remedies.

ABAD. Gensan show.

Zsa Zsa at Captain's Bar

Zsa Zsa Padilla takes a walk down memory lane as she brings back the music she's grown up with in "In My Life...Zsa Zsa" at Captain's Bar," Mandarin Oriental Manila on June 1 and 2.

ZSA ZSA. Birthday concert.

The singer celebrates her 37th birthday on May 28.

"In My Life" is one of the rare lounge acts of Zsa Zsa, with Louie Ocampo as musical director and Johnny Manahan as director. She is working on her next album, which features a rare collection of original songs, a combination of pop and love songs.

'Little Mermaid' auditions

Trumpets announces auditions today at 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Stageworx, Shangri-La Plaza Mall for the rerun of "Little Mermaid" based on the classic tale of Hans Christian Andersen. The musical will be staged anew at the Meralco Theater from Aug. 3 to Sept. 9.

Auditionees must be at least 16 years old and should bring a recent 2 x 2 photo, biodata and a minus one or musical score. Call 633-5010.

Freestyle at Music Museum

Fresh from its successful concerts with Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha and Janno Gibbs, Freestyle will hold its first major solo concert, "Freestyle on Fire" on June 15 and 16 at the Music Museum.

The concert features Bituin Escalante as special guest.

The group is expected to do its memorable originals like "Before I LetYou Go," "So Slow," "This Time," and "Till I Found You." The Davao-based band is busy with out-of-town gigs and is now working on its third album.

Call 372-6038 to 39.

City tour

Wacky Clothing Studio has scheduled a series of city and provincial tours for their celebrity image models. ABS-CBN's "Tabing Ilog" star Kaye Abad was in Batangas Citimart yesterday while rap artist Carlos Agassi will join Kaye at Kimball Plaza in General Santos City today. Aside from the special show scheduled at 4 p.m., Kaye and Carlos will also be at the Wacky Clothing Studio display area to sign autographs.

'The Sixth Sense' on Star Movies

Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment star in the box office hit "The Sixth Sense" on May 20 at 8:15 p.m. on Star Movies.

The chilling psychological thriller tells the tale of an eight-year-old boy confused by his paranormal powers and afraid to tell anyone about his anguish, except Dr. Crowe, who tries to uncover the truth about the boy's supernatural abilities.

Pearl Harbor specials

National Geographic Channel bridges the world between fact and fiction in "National Geographic Beyond the Movie: Pearl Harbor" on May 27 back-to-back with "Pearl Harbor—Legacy of the Attack" at 9 p.m.

The movie will be screened locally on June 6. Join the Pearl Harbor fever at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place ongoing till June 3.(*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

MOTHERS IN FILIPINO FILMS

From martyrs to self-actualizing individuals

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

ONE of the most equable depictions of a mother in local movies in the largely melodramatic '50s was Rosa Rosal's performance in Manuel Silos' ``Biyaya ng Lupa." Her heart broke at the series of tragedies that befell her children, but she never allowed herself to wallow in bathos.

The film's most compelling image was of Rosa pulling the plow herself after one of her sons had deserted her. The scene *was* highly melodramatic, but Rosa's tempered performance held excessive emotionalizing in check.

Hopes

In "Ang Totoong Buhay ni Pacita M," Nora Aunor played a bawdy bar singer who had pinned all of her hopes on her daughter (Lotlot de Leon), who was tragically hit by a stray bullet and became a human "vegetable."

The intensity of Nora's love for her daughter was shown when she decided to have her respirator turned off so that she could have a dignified death.

However, in "The Flor Contemplacion Story," Aunor played another mother role with less judiciousness and greater hysteria. Her character worked in Singapore to give her children a better life, but as she languished in prison on what the movie declared were trumped-up charges of murder, the mother character gave vent to extreme emotionalizing that turned some viewers off.

Hard time

In "Inay," Alicia Vergel retires from teaching in a small town and resumes being a fulltime mother. She has a hard time adjusting to the altered lifestyles of her four grown-up children, however.

She also finds it difficult to get along with the wife of her eldest son, who is intolerant of her provincial ways. Feeling neglected and useless, the mother decides to go home to the province.

Thus does the film deal with the problems facing Filipino mothers who have to contend with their children's more modern ways, while trying to hold on to the traditional values that have sustained them all these years.

Positive values

The film is also a cautionary viewing experience for young viewers, reminding them that, in the final analysis, modern-day trappings are less important than the positive values that their parents have tried to inculcate in them.

"Ina Ka ng Anak Mo" is a movie with a much more hysterical edge to it. Nora Aunor portrays a social worker who is unable to bear a baby. This pushes her husband to go to bed with her mother! The mother gets pregnant, and the social worker brings the matter to court.

"Mother Dear" is about a predicament that is less unusual but is similarly stressful for the parties involved. A married man's mistress dies, leaving a teenage daughter. Not knowing what else to do, he convinces his wife to allow his illegitimate daughter to live with them.

Major test

This is a major test for the wife, whose natural antipathy for her husband's illegitimate offspring is countered by her pity for the innocent child, whom she mightily tries to accept into her home, and even love as one of her own.

In "Pasan Ko ang Daigdig," it's the daughter who literally has to carry her mother's burden. Lupe (Sharon Cuneta) is a scavenger who lifts her mother on her back as she begs for alms. Eventually Lupe succeeds as a singer, but she falls in love with an evil man, and her mother ends up stabbing him to death.

The movie thus underscores the bond between mother and daughter, a theme that remains strong in Filipino movies, despite the many changes that family relationships have experienced.

Incestuous relationship

In "Kisapmata," the mother character is more helpless, unable or unwilling to do anything to put a stop to the incestuous relationship between her husband and their daughter.

The mother characters in "Oro, Plata, Mata" are landed gentry who have a hard time coping with the harsh realities of World War Two, even when it ruins the lives of their beloved children.

In proud contrast, the mother in "Sakada" (Rosa Rosal) finally gets over her passivity and is driven to become a leader of oppressed farm workers in their fight for reforms.

Lina Obieta Sevilla awarded 81st Premio Zobel

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LINA Obieta-Sevilla, the former society journalist and founder of the Fundacion de la Lengua Hispanica en Filipinas, was awarded the 81st Premio Zobel recently at the Skytop, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

Founder

Her daughter, Conchitina Sevilla-Bernardo, accepted the award on her behalf from Gonzalo Mac-Crohon y Padilla, great grandson of the Premio Zobel founder, the late Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala.

Ms Bernardo read the awardee's speech in which she said that she established the Fundacion de la Lengua Hispanica to work for the return of Spanish to the schools and universities of the Philippines, since Spanish is the language most widely spoken in the world today after English and is the fount of the culture and national language of the Philippines.

The Premio Zobel was initiated on July 25, 1920 by the late Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala, patron of the arts and a member of the Academia Filipina (correspondent of the Real Academia Española de la Lengua), to maintain and preserve the Spanish language in the Philippines.

The Premio Zobel is now sustained by the founder's grandchildren, Georgina and Alejandro Padilla y Zobel, in honor of his memory, as well as that of their parents, Gloria Zobel de Padilla and Ricardo Padilla y Satrustegui, both of whom were also members of the Academia Filipina.

Book

At the awarding ceremony, Georgina Padilla presented the book, "80 Años del Premio Zobel," which traces the history of the award and the awardees in the last 80 years.

A reference book for scholars and professionals, it was a project of Delfin Colome, the former Spanish Ambassador to Manila. It was written by Lourdes Brilliantes, a professor, historian and writer in the Spanish language, who won the Premio Zobel in 1998.

Two other members of the Academia Filipina, Guillermo Gomez Rivera and Rosalinda Orosa, acted as master of ceremonies and reader of the laudatory speech, respectively.

The guest of honor/guest speaker, Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, said in her speech that during the last 80 years, the Premio Zobel has almost single-handedly assisted and promoted the redevelopment of the Spanish language in the Philippines.

"One might say that the Premio Zobel has done more to extend the Spanish language than the two governments, Filipino and Spanish," Ms Nakpil concluded, to rousing applause.

The ceremony was attended by government officials, the diplomatic corps led by the new Ambassador of Spain in the Philippines, Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, and members of the Academia Filipina, as well as intellectuals, business executives and prominent citizens.

Guests

Among the guests were Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, Philippine Ambassador to Spain and Mrs. Jose Oledan, Consul of Spain Javier Herrera, First Secretary of Spain Arancha Banon, Consul of Spain in Cebu Jaime Picornell, Instituto Cervantes Director Javier Galvan, former Ambassador to Spain Isabel Caro Wilson, Lizzie and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Enrique Zobel, Dedes Zobel, Sofia Zobel, Patxi Elizalde, Mr. And Mrs. Jose Soriano, Anton Roxas, Margarita Melian Ortigas, Chito Madrigal and Manuel Collantes, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Sy, Mary Prieto, Stella Marquez and Jorge Araneta, Vicky Quirino and Francisco Delgado, Beth Day Romulo, Eva Abesamis de Koenigswarter, Olivia Romulo, Paz Yuchengco, Loleng Panlilio, Mita Pardo de Tavera, Fr. Gabriel Casal, Mrs. Sotero Laurel, Mr. and Mrs. Federico Borromeo, Mia Borromeo, Mr. and Mrs. Fausto Preysler, Jeannie Goulbourn, Grace Glory Go, Maricris and Nando Vasquez Prada, Severine Mialhe, Nena Viaplana, Frank Evaristo, Gregorio Brilliantes, Miren Guerero Berenguer, Elena O. del Rosario, and Pitoy Moreno.

CONCHITINA Sevilla-Bernardo accepts the award on behalf of her mother from Gonzalo Mac-Crohon y Padilla.

The other 'K'

(From page D2)

Because of the feedback Kaye got, her confidence soared to a higher level. "If I can handle Lim, I can handle anybody!" she frequently joked. She also acknowledged that she learned a lot about other things from her crime buster co-anchor. When her second year with Lim kicked in, you'd often hear Kaye debating with the mayor, since she finally felt at home with him.

Substance

Through the years, Kaye has accumulated a lot of practical knowledge about her trade. For her, it's a tougher job than TV broadcasting because you have to communicate substance and sincerity through only one medium (the voice). She doesn't go on board with no idea of the news because she knows people can tell whether a broadcaster is just guessing about a subject or not.

There are "down" days when Kaye has to force herself to not let her mood affect her job. Or even her personal emotions. Just recently, Kaye was supposed to do a report on her kidnapped uncle, Bobby Dacer. Having talked to him just a few days before his disappearance (where the older Dacer reminded Kaye to take it easy on her comments), Kaye had "this big lump on my throat" upon reading the report given to her just minutes before she was to go on board. She begged off and had someone pinch-hit for her.

Kaye is a go-getter, a workaholic. Given the choice, she'd rather have her hands full than take it easy. Always on the lookout for opportunities to spread her wings, Kaye even joked that she'd accept an early morning timeslot so she could satisfy her need to learn and grow more.

Is Kaye in a hurry? Though she doesn't say so, I can sense she's getting restless career-wise. I want to remind her that she should take her time and that things will happen naturally to someone as talented and as pretty as her.

Skilled

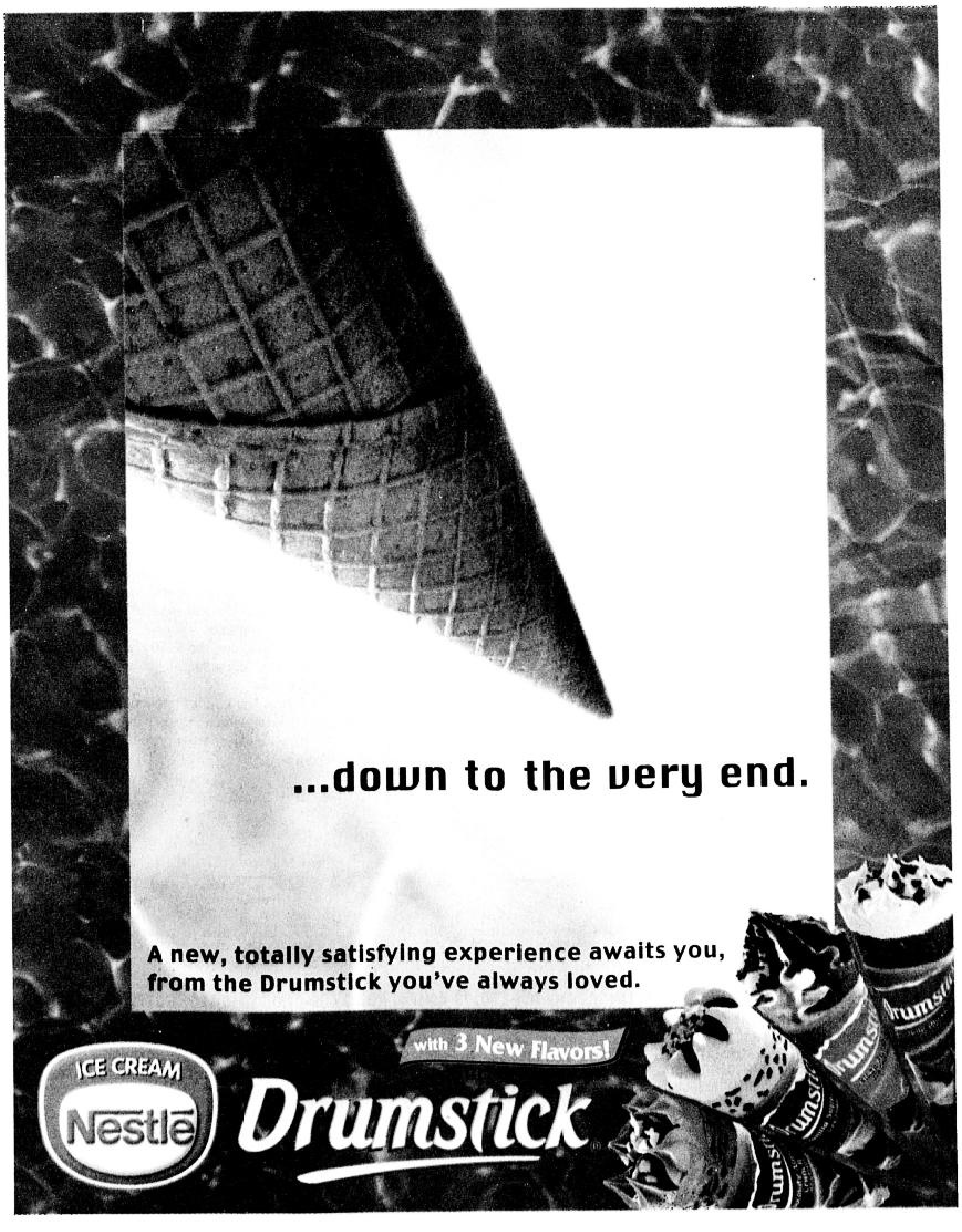
She's hoping to break into TV. "But I'm not pushing it. *Kung para sa 'kin, para sa akin,*" she said. Seasoned and skilled in her own right, some poeple thought that ``Balitang K" was supposed to be her show. ``Kasi *sa* 'K' *din nag*-start *ang* name *ko*. But who knows?" she wistfully said. All in good time, I'm sure.

I asked Kaye if she had plans of quitting, or moving on to another career. Being a woman and a *komentarista* (and a "bombastic" one at that), I realized that her job could be life-threatening (which she confirmed) not only to her, but also to the people she loves.

Surprisingly, Kaye replied, "I'm leaving everything up to God. I know He'll take care of me. If I die, I want my listeners to remember me as a fearless broadcaster." I joked that if ever she decides to quit her broadcasting career, she could always go into recording (Kaye possesses one of the best singing voices I've heard).

But quitting or failing is a far-fetched idea. With the way things are going, it won't be long before Kaye gains more confidence and will finally be in the right place at the right time for that big break.

When that happens, the world will discover and fall in love with another "K." Not Korina, not Kris, not even Karen—but Kaye Dacer!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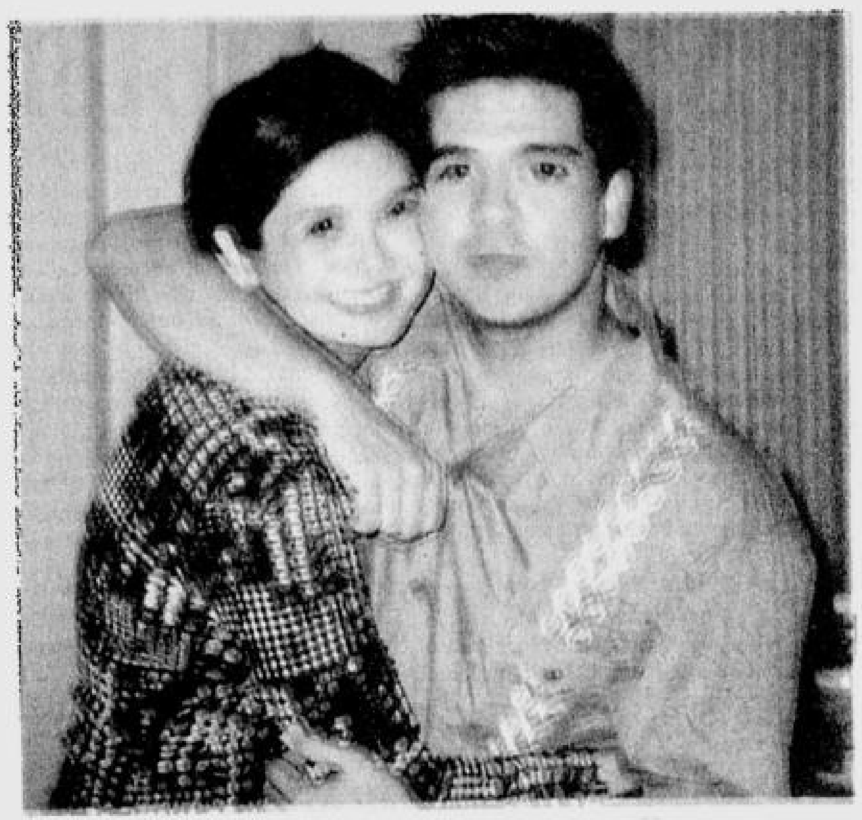
Filmdom's grand weddings recalled



AGA and Charlene will exchange "I-dos" in Baguio City.

By Behn Cervantes

"JUNE is bustin' out all over" goes a line in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel." To students, all agog from the summer vacation, the month of June marks the start of classes along with tedious homework, dates and more questions about love, life and the meaning of it all. Parents moan at the thought of increased tuition fees, the prices of books, transportation and food for their children. Teachers groan because of low wages. Rains start to pour, too.

Festivities

However, June is also the month of weddings. It is after the merry month of May when couples in love plan to make a public bond that is to last forever. Costs for ceremony and festivities are high, but what the heck, you only marry once, right?

Wrong. Many marry more than once, no matter how grand the wedding, no matter how breathlessly they promised to live together in sickness or in health, during times of plenty and times of need, till death do them part. The once in a lifetime event has long been romanticized and made a big deal of. Would Hollywood be far behind?

Hollywood made a big thing about weddings in its movies. When its stars, especially the big ones, got married, the movie capital made it "just like in the movies." Those grand events could strengthen the box office receipts of the stars' coming films, after all. They spared no expenses for such events. However, it was not beyond them to have fake cakes that were 10 feet tall. They were "just like the movies." These were photogenic, to be sure, but inedible just the same!

For example, when gorgeous 17-year-old Elizabeth Taylor wed Nicky Hilton, the MGM studio made much of it. After all, she was declared to be "the most beautiful girl in the world." Nicky, on the other hand, was heir to the Hilton International Hotel chain. Glamour and business melded with the youth, beauty and promise of the pair. Alas, it lasted all of nine months. Liz was to marry eight more times. She was widowed once and married Richard Burton twice.

Biggest names

In the Philippine setting, grand weddings among the rich and famous include those of some of the biggest names of local filmdom. The bigger the stars, the bigger their box office clout, the more grandiose the wedding. They also assemble a greater number of sponsors, usually including the president of the country, powerful tycoons and other droppable names that help reduce some of the cost of the grand affair. Actually, some get away with a hefty dowry from the gifts from their principal sponsors. Secondary sponsors pick up the tabs for the minor expenses.

Tita Duran was the country's answer to Hollywood's super moppet Shirley Temple. When she wed debonaire Pancho Magalona, son of a senator from the south, it was a society wedding coupled with show biz glamour. In time, however, Pancho joined the movies, became one of its best actors and raised children who carry his name with pride. Tita retired, Pancho became the star, and in a manner of speaking, "they lived quietly ever after."

Philippine movies made a lot of the elopement of Armi Kuusela, the first Miss Universe, who fell in love with and married Columbia graduate Gil Hilario. When they eloped, it was front page news. When they agreed to film their love affair and elopement, it included a tango executed by stars, plus some cinematic magical effects. All that show biz did not hurt their marriage, and Armi even became Forbes Park's first barangay captain. When she was widowed, she married an American diplomat and now lives in retirement abroad.

Demure

When King of Philippine action films Ronnie Poe married lady-like Susan Roces, it thrilled their many fans. He had been linked to filmdom's glamorous and sexy stars, but he wed the demure Jesusa Sonora, who indeed deserved the title of Movie Queen.

The biggest names of the industry attended the wedding and the most powerful political figures were among the principal sponsors at their grand wedding.

Youthful Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion also had important political and society figures among their sponsors. They wed at the Manila Cathedral and fans were all over the church and its surroundings. The marriage did not last. Glitz adds little to marriage, obviously.

Lotlot de Leon and Ramon Christopher, on the other hand, first lived together before they got married. They have a better marital record than their respective parents: Nora Aunor is still seeking marital bliss; Pilita Corrales, likewise.

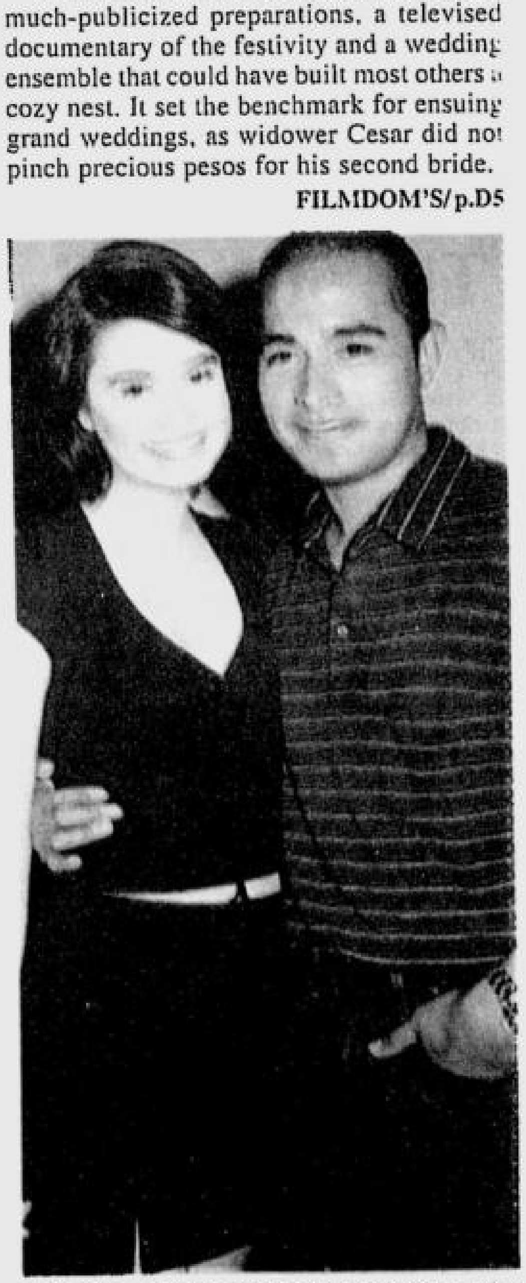
Rudy Fernandez and delectable Lorna Tolentino decided to tie the knot after many years of togetherness. They chose the exquisite chapel of an hacienda in Quezon. It made for great visuals and made an honest woman out of Lorna T.

Bride

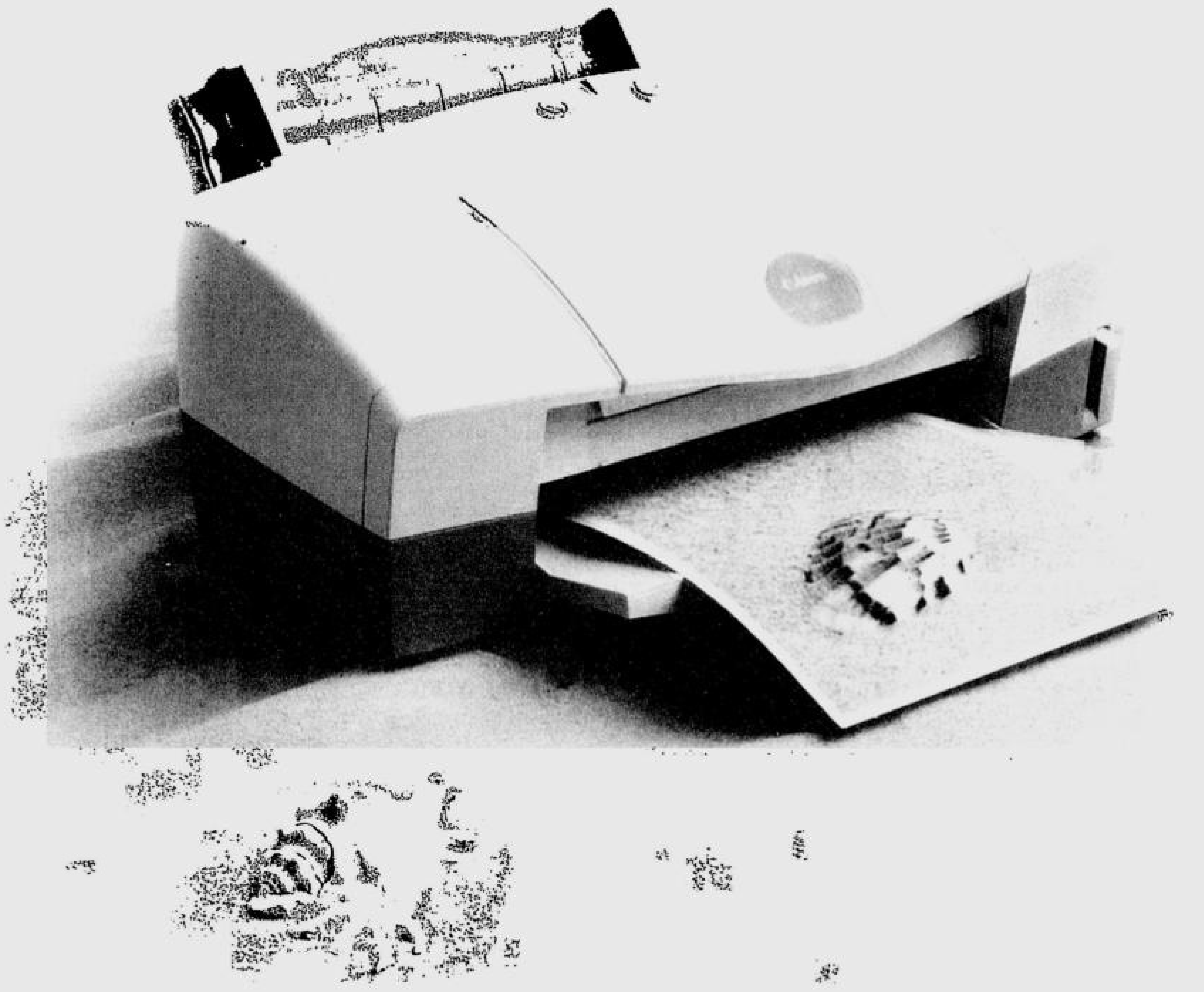
Local filmdom's biggest wedding of late was the union of Sunshine Cruz and macho Cesar Montano, who claimed his bride as the sun went down over Manila Bay. The color coordination all lent to that final moment when earth and sun became one.

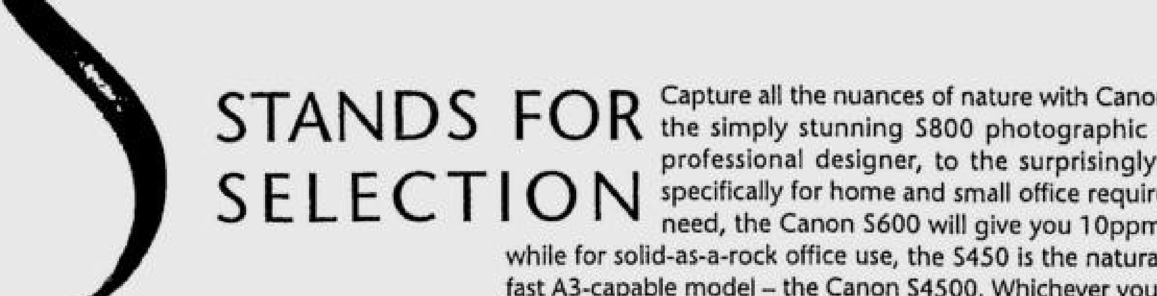
It also had the longest list of sponsors, much-publicized preparations, a televised documentary of the festivity and a wedding ensemble that could have built most others a cozy nest. It set the benchmark for ensuing grand weddings, as widower Cesar did not pinch precious pesos for his second bride.

FILMDOM'S/p.D5



CESAR and Sunshine got married as the sun went down over Manila Bay.





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Filmdom's grand weddings recalled

(From page D4)

Actress Jessica Rodriquez, whose resumé of achievements seemed to bank mainly on the fact that she was an ex-girlfriend of Jean Claude Van Damme, the tough man from Brussels, decided she, too would marry in style. She even sang in it. She wed David Bunevacz, a hunk better known as the ex-boyfriend of Anjannette Abayari. In their case, it was American style, the bride picked up the tab although they also had enough sponsors to smile widely in their wedding pictures.

Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales are in the process of planning their own grand wedding which is scheduled on May 28 in Baguio City. They are probably going to be the best-looking couple getting married this year. All desired effects must be had!

However, the one who is most famous for his many palatial homes, families and children never had a big wedding. Not one that I know of, anyway. He merely built his mansions to house his families and children. Joseph Ejercito Estrada has been a sponsor in countless weddings but never had a grand one of his own. Is there a lesson there somewhere?

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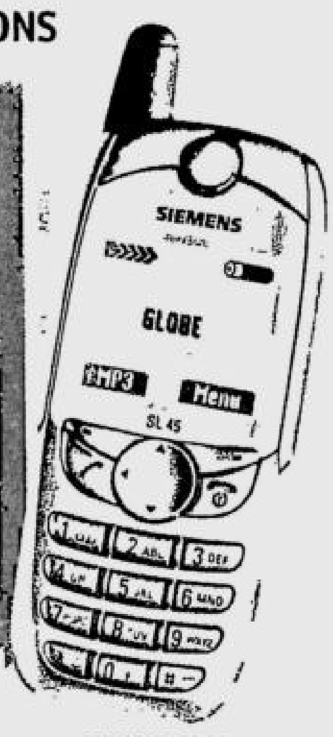

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Chris de Lima, 18
Archer
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Kim Kwok, 14
Opera singer
"If you can sing opera, you can sing just about anything else, like pop. But if you just sing pop, you can't sing opera."

Miggy Yam, 6
Soccer player
"I practice hard and do my best because I want to be like Pele."

Mazie Cajucom, 16
Actress
"I was never shy. I always wanted to perform. I believe that if you really want something, don't be afraid -- go for it."

Mich Dulce, 19
Fashion designer
"Everything around me, the people I meet, and the journeys I embark on become the inspiration for my work and craft."

Hans Dimayuga, 12
Actor
"On stage, lessons are learned, pesos are earned. Great! But the best part comes with... the curtain call!"

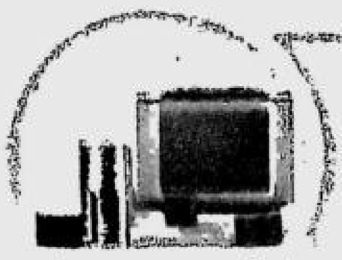
Celine Guillermo, 6
Painter
" I love to paint. When I grow up, I want to be a painter, ballerina and a doctor."

Pauline Baniqued, 14
Writer
"I have always felt that in a string of words is a power that touches souls, and can heal those who have been terribly hurt."

Mariel Alfonso, 12
Ballet dancer
"Dancing teaches discipline. It taught me to focus, to develop my skills. It taught me how to balance both my studies and ballet."

Cara Damian, 5
Ice skater
"I like to feel the wind on my face. I like the feeling when I'm gliding."

Paolo Bagaman, 10
Honor student and leader
"My intelligence will help me persevere in helping my parents and my country. I want to be president someday."



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Good reviews

NOEL Trinidad is a proud papa these days—and who can blame him? His son Joel has gotten good reviews for his performance in Singapore in the theater piece, "Shakespeare's R and J," a daring re-telling of "Romeo and Juliet."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The Business Times (May 5 issue) singled Joel out in its review of the play: "Trinidad, in particular, was skillful in the subtlety with which he varied body language, pitch and gesture to play Friar Lawrence, Mercutio, Lady Capulet and Lord Montague.

"His Mercutio was a wonderfully-layered performance that also conveyed the struggle of the school boy watching the spiralling passion between his schoolmates with growing self-awareness, disapproval, jealousy and desire."

For its part, The Strait Times (May 7) described Joel's performance as "a joy to watch."

How did Joel get into "Shakespeare's R and J"? He was one of the cast members of the musical "Rent" that was performed earlier this year in Singapore, and at that time the Singapore Repertory Theater was casting "R and J."

TRINIDAD. His performance was "a joy to watch."

They were looking for versatile actors who were comfortable with Shakespearean English, could play multiple characters and were open to the idea of movement-based staging, and they found these qualities in Joel.

The other cast members were Singaporeans Brendon Marc Fernandez and Enlai Chua, and Rehaan Engineer from India.

Movies on HBO

Saturday, May 19, 9 p.m., "Galaxy Quest" with Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver.

Sunday, May 20, 10:15 p.m., "American Beauty" with Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening and Mena Suvari.

Monday, May 21, 9 p.m., "Lovers Lane" with Deidre Kilgore.

Tuesday, May 22, 10:30 p.m., "Sex and the City" (TV series) with Sarah Jessica Parker.

Wednesday, May 23, 10:30 p.m., "The Big Hit" with Mark Wahlberg and Lou Diamond Phillips.

Cinemax Saturday Classics and Sunday Premieres

Saturday, May 19, 2 p.m., "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" An elderly, formerly bedridden movie star is "cared for" by her sister, who hates her and keeps her prisoner in the family mansion. Starring Vanessa and Lynn Redgrave.

FEGI. To interpret ballad about forbidden love.

Sunday, May 20, 9 p.m., "Plunkett and Macleane." A common thief teams up with an aristocrat to rob from the rich, becoming "The Gentlemen Highwaymen," but one of them ends up falling in love with one of their wealthy victims' daughter. Starring Robert Carlyle, Liv Tyler and Alan Cumming.

Sybil at Captain's Bar

Joey@92.3 FM showcases dance diva Sybil in an intimate engagement at Captain's Bar at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22. Sybil's repertoire consists of songs that made the '80s one of the most memorable decades in music.

They include "Walk on By," "Don't Make Me Over," "Make It Easy On Me," "The Love I Lost" and "When I'm Good and Ready." Tickets at P700 plus P350 for the first standard drink. Call 882-INBC. For updates, stay tuned to Joey@92.3 FM.

SYBIL. Dance diva.

Anna sings 'Destiny' at Metropop 2001

Neophyte composer Raquel "Rock" Custodio, one of the 12 finalists in GMA 7's 20001 Metropop Song Festival on May 26, has picked singer Anna Fegi to interpret her ballad about forbidden love, "Destiny."

Rock is assistant brand manager for Sarah Lee. "Destiny," an inspiring song about the difficulty of making the right choice but making it anyway since it is the right thing to do, is the only English ballad that made it to the Metropop, which attracted 1,903 entries from all over the country.

For the past two years, Anna has been besieged with offers to interpret entries in local music competitions. She was winner of the People's Choice Award in last year's ABS-CBN "Himig Handog" Music Search for Dodgie Simon's tribute to OFWs, "Larawan."

Now part of the "Asap" family, Anna, who has returned from a highly acclaimed performance in the musical "Rent" in Sinagpore, will soon be launching her debut album under BMG Pilipinas.

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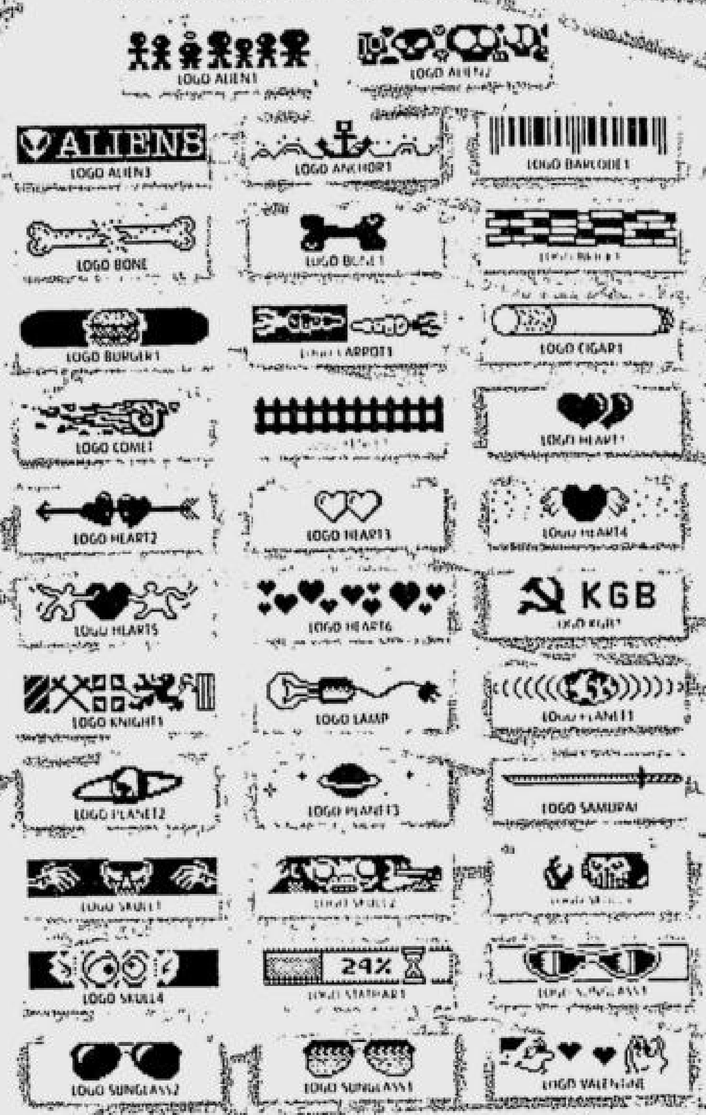
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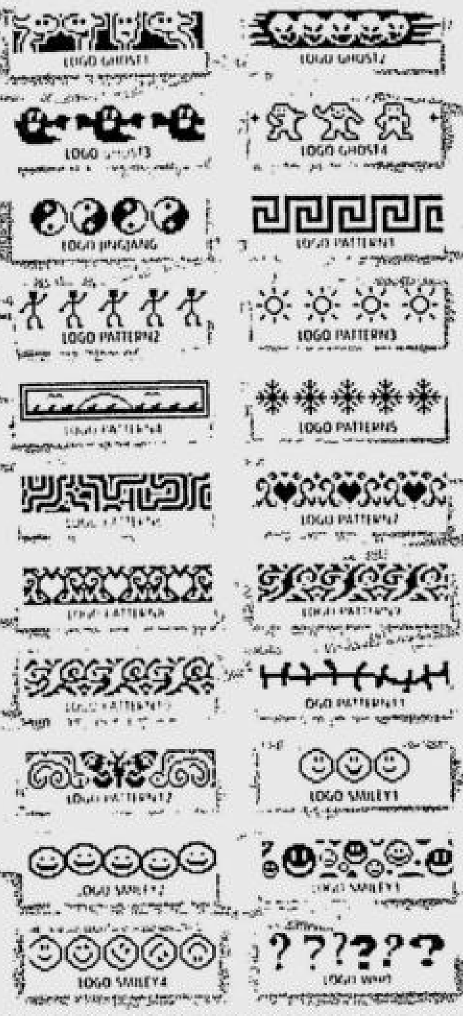
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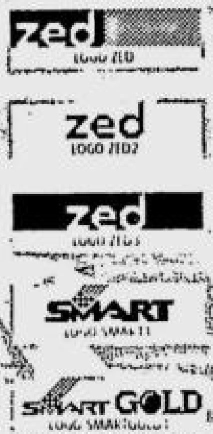
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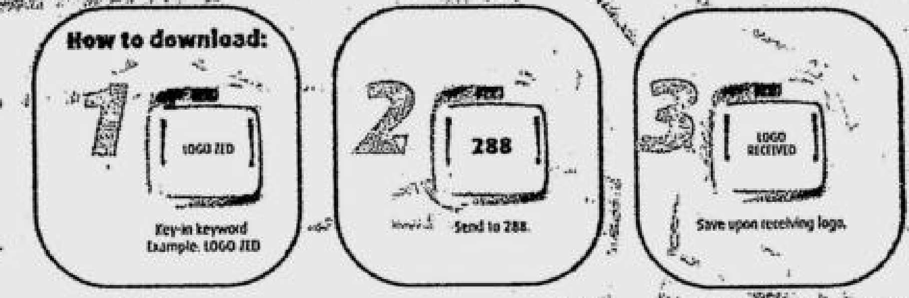
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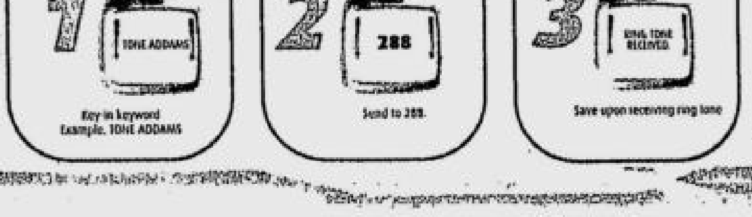
rock		
All Star	Smashmouth/Gregory Camp	TONE ALLSTAR
Black Dog	Led Zeppelin	TONE BLACKDOG
Head Overheels	Tears For Fears	TONE HEDOVRHIL
Hotel California	Eagles	TONE HOTELCALI
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
Jump	Van Halen	TONE JUMP
Layla	Eric Clapton	TONE LAYLA
Losing My Religion	REM	TONE LOSINMY
Love Potion No.9	Jed Leiber	TONE LUVPOTION
Other Side	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE ODERSYD
Someday	Sugar Ray	TONE SUMDAY
Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELY
The Final Countdown	Europe/Joey Tempest	TONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	Vapors	TONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE UNDRBRDG
Whole Lotta Love	Led Zeppelin	TONE WHOLAATALUV
tv		
Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	TONE ALLMYC
Babylon 5 Theme	TV Cue	TONE BABYLONS
Batman Theme -	Danny Elfman	TONE BATMAN
Dallas (TV Cue)	Stephen Jnmel	TONE DALLAS
Doogie Howser Theme		TONE DOOGIE
Flintstone (TV Cue)	TV Cue	TONE FLINSTO
Jeopardy Theme	Merv Griffin	TONE JEPRDY
Scooby Doo Theme	Joseph Barbera/Hoyt Curtin/William Hannah	TONE SCOOBY
Simpsons Theme	Danny Elfman	TONE SIMPSONS
movie		
Addams Family Theme	Mike Post/Pete Carpenter	TONE ADDAMS
Animal Song	Savage Garden/Daren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE ANIMAL
Duel Of the Fates	Star Wars Episode 1	TONE EPISODE1
Dying Young	James Newton Howard	TONE DIEYOUNG
Godfather Theme	N. Rota	TONE GODFATHER
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Mett Serlitia/Mark Dobson/David Thoene/Suzie	TONE MISATING
I Say A Little Prayer	My Best Friend's Wedding	TONE SAYALIL
Rocky Theme	Carol Connors/William Conti	TONE ROCKY
Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWARS3
Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	TONE SUPERMAN
The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	TONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	Little Mermaid	TONE UNDERSEA
Xmen Theme		TONE XMEN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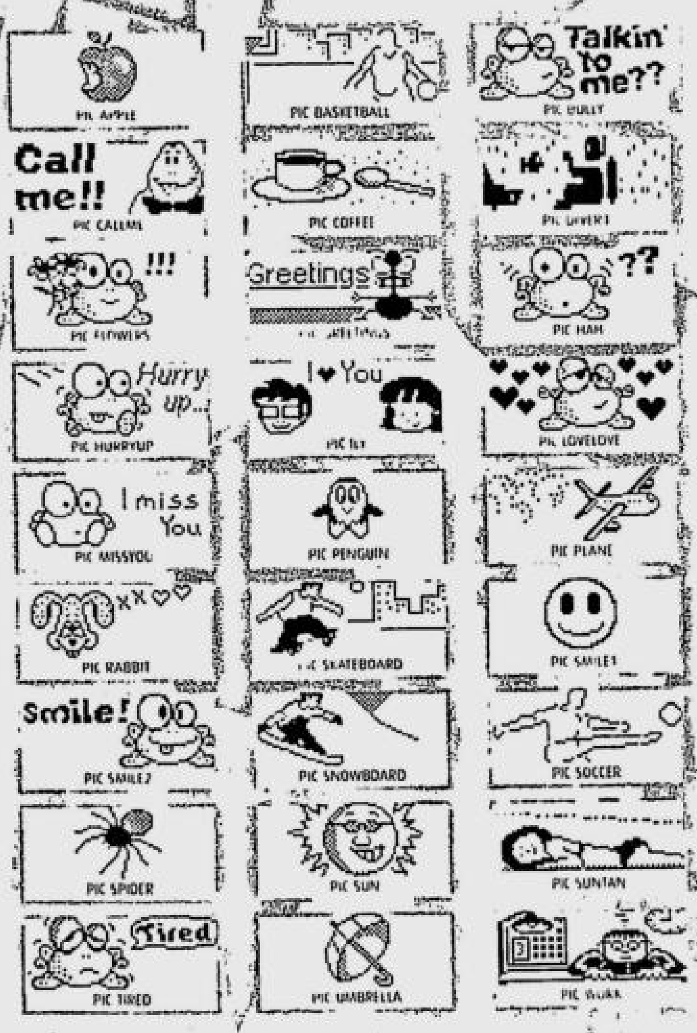
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PIC CALLME
PIC COFFEE
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Greetings
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Hurry up...
PIC HURRYUP
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PIC ILY
PIC LOVELOVE
I miss You
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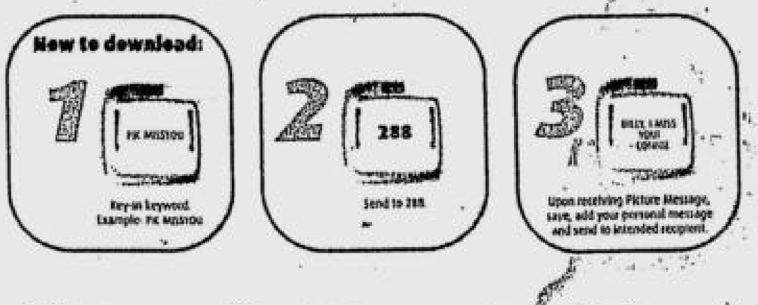
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Saturday SPECIAL

Ben Affleck flies high in 'Pearl Harbor'

FOR Academy Award-winning actor/writer Ben Affleck, the best thing about acting is that it allows him "the indulgence of a fantasy every day."

That fantasy has taken him from a ride into outer space in "Armageddon," to a journey back in time in "Pearl Harbor," an epic saga of love and war which reunites him with "Armageddon" director Michael Bay and producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

AFFLECK. Tremendous potential.

Pilots

The story follows two daring young pilots, Rafe McCawley (Affleck) and Danny Walker (Josh Hartnett), who grew up like brothers and first learned to fly in the daring and dangerous aviation practice of crop-dusting, and are both pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

"Danny and Rafe are amalgams of many people," says Affleck. "My character, for example, is representative of everything that could happen to someone in the war. He enlists in the United States Army Air Corps and then joins Britain's Royal Air Force, as many pilots from neutral countries did.

He and Danny get up in planes and shoot down several Japanese aircraft during the attack just like two real flyers, Welch and Taylor, did.

And then Danny and Rafe take part in the Doolittle raid, which Welch and Taylor did not. There's nothing dishonest in that, it's all for the sake of the narrative.

When Rafe meets Evelyn Johnson (Kate Beckinsale), a US Navy nurse, he is immediately smitten, but Evelyn is not so certain about his intentions.

"He's very determined and at first she's not having it. From the books I read, nurses had to build up a fairly thick skin because there was always a great group of men in their underwear with jokes flying around, so they did have to fend off the boys a little bit. But Rafe is very persistent and quite charming and has a good sense of humor so she lets him woo her."

Idealistic

Bold and idealistic, Rafe joins the Eagle Squadron, a group of Americans, Canadians, Australians, Swedes and others from neutral countries who volunteer to fight alongside English pilots during the Battle of Britain.

BEN/ P. E2

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Comedy at Cannes with a cartoon, a spoof and a satire

By Marc Burleigh

CANNES, France—The Cannes Film Festival took on a lighter, comedic air Saturday last week as a Hollywood animated feature, a satire on the Bosnian war and a Thai spoof on Westerns were presented.

The breezier line-up made a change from the movies with social statements or psychological investigations that have formed the bulk of the official selection so far, since the 12-day festival opened Wednesday.

Mass-market appeal

The competition for the top Palme d'Or prize, which opened with the lush "Moulin Rouge," took on a distinct mass-market appeal Saturday with the worldwide premiere of "Shrek."

The smart-mouth computer-generated animation about a cynical ogre featuring the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz took a fable of Disney proportions and turned it into something Jeffrey Katzenberg, one of the owners of the DreamWorks studio that made it, termed "subversive."

The dialogue is modern and wisecracking, references are made to "The Matrix" and US wrestling and blind-date TV shows, and directors Andrew Adamson, a New Zealander, and Victoria Jenson, an American, aren't afraid to crush cute little animated critters for a laugh. Its technical wizardry is, of course, excellent.

One audience member who was at Friday's media screening described it as "politically incorrect animation."

"We are trying very, very hard to push the boundaries of what has been, I think, a very narrow definition of what an animated movie is," Katzenberg said.

Humorous punch

More based in reality, but still packing a darkly humorous punch was another competitor for the Palme d'Or, "No Man's Land," by Bosnian-Belgian director Danis Tanovic.

His story is of a Bosnian Muslim and a Bosnian Serb trapped between frontlines in an abandoned trench during the war while the UN force, prodded into action by exploitative media, tries to get them out without getting them killed.

With its tiny budget and "M.A.S.H."-like irony, the film is a far cry from the firestorm of "Apocalypse Now Redux" which showed out of competition Friday, but it holds its own with its still-contemporary jab at geo-politics and media, and the absurdity of war.

In a different vein, a Thai film shown out of competition, "Tears of the Black Tiger", brought back a matinee feel to Cannes with its cheesy half-spoof, half-homage to spaghetti Westerns and "Gone With the Wind" romances from the 1950s.

Director Wisit Sasanatieng gave the film its many winks through techniques not seen in half a century: back projections, obvious sets, wipes, iris shots, lingering images of a troubled heroine or the steely eyes of her hero.

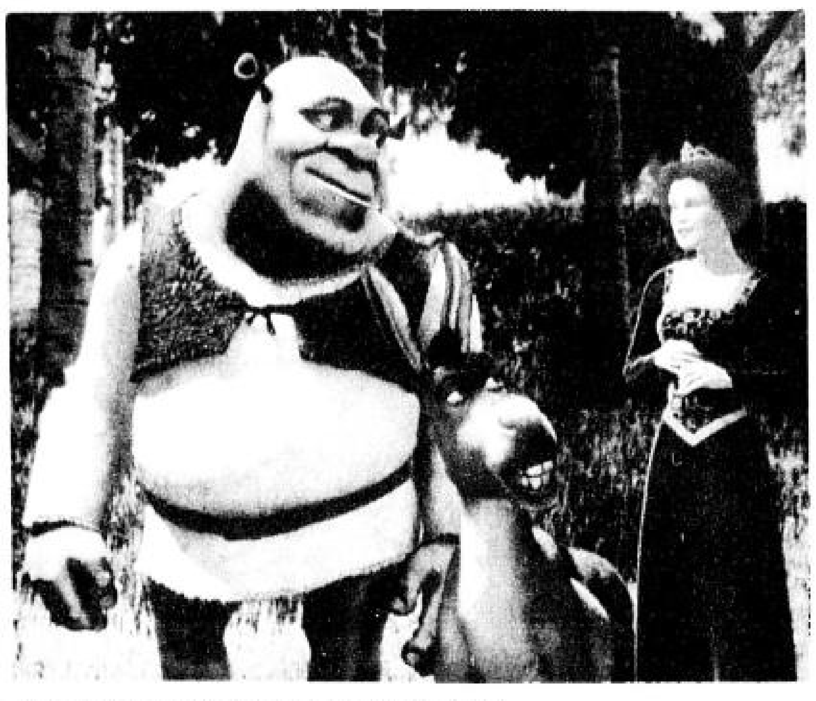
Pastiche

The result is a pastiche that produces early laughs in the audience as scenes are pumped for all their cartoonish value, even if the cast of young relatively unknowns usually play their roles straight.

There was a minority of films screened that didn't go for the funny bone, however, among them "Replay," the first French film competing for Cannes' prestigious prize.

Starring Emmanuelle Beart and directed by Catherine Corsini, the psychological thriller depicts two women, an actress and her jealous friend, and their ambiguous relationship.

The festival continues Sunday with, notably, "The Man Who Wasn't There," the latest movie from the Coen brothers who are known for their dark humor. *AFP*



"SHREK." Politically incorrect animation.

Ben . . . (From page E1)

Leaving his new love and his best friend behind, with the promise that he will return, he heads off for the deadly skies above the English Channel, while both Eyelyn and Danny are transferred to Hawaii's idyllic paradise—Pearl Harbor.

To prepare for his role Affleck not only spent a week in Army Ranger boot camp with his fellow actors, but he also took the time to reread his history.

He spent countless hours with various historians, technical advisors and military personnel working with the production and spoke with many veterans from the period. Among his chief concerns was the desire to create a plausible and universally appealing film.

Honest

"I wouldn't have taken the role if I thought the film was jingoistic propaganda," Affleck says. "We tried to be fair and honest. The Japanese are presented as honorable people with a certain point of view. They felt threatened by the United States and did what they felt they had to do at the time. We have a great responsibility to honor all the parties involved."

"There is always a new wave of actors who are going to be the superstars of tomorrow, and Ben is one of them," producer Bruckheimer concludes.

"This is Ben's time. You want to watch him on screen, you want to be him, and that's what being a movie star is all about."

Director Michael Bay is simple in his praise: "This is his finest performance ever. He has tremendous potential, he is charismatic and I just think it's his best performance."

Ben Affleck first came to prominence starring in Kevin Smith's comedy "Chasing Amy."

He captured an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Best Screenplay in 1998 for his script for "Good Will Hunting," which he co-wrote with fellow actor and close friend Matt Damon.

He segued into big-budget action with "Armageddon," and was among the en

'The Golden Bowl' is lovely but uninvolving

UMA Thurman and Jeremy Northam star in Lions Gate Films' new release, "The Golden Bowl."

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Like some other Merchant-Ivory productions and Henry James adaptations, "The Golden Bowl" is lovely to look at but not much fun to watch.

Opulence

The film has the opulence and rich tapestry of previous period pieces by producer Ismail Merchant and director James Ivory such as "A Room With a View," "Howards End" and "The Remains of the Day."

But like the lavish James adaptations "The Portrait of a Lady" by Jane Campion and "The Wings of the Dove" by Iain Softley, Merchant and Ivory's "The Golden Bowl" is remote and uninvolving.

The four principals—Nick Nolte, Uma Thurman, Kate Beckinsale and Jeremy Northam—strive for the sort of muted passion that burned beneath Anthony Hopkins' and Emma Thompson's composed exteriors in "Remains of the Day" and "Howards End."

"The Golden Bowl," however, feels more like a dusty exercise in the gamesmanship of affluence, with a privileged quartet engaged in an emotional whist tournament for which they themselves have only a halfhearted interest.

Art collector

Nolte plays Adam Verger, an American billionaire art collector living in Europe in the early 1900s. He and daughter Maggie (Beckinsale) share a sheltered co-dependency that complicates their new marriages—she to the down-and-out Italian Prince Amerigo (Northam), he to Maggie's outgoing school chum Charlotte (Thurman).

Muddying things further, Charlotte and Amerigo are former lovers who decide to conceal their past relationship from Adam and Maggie.

But with Maggie and Adam hanging together in privacy like an old married couple, Charlotte and Amerigo are free to flaunt their rekindled romance.

For the audience, though, sparks don't fly between Charlotte and Amerigo, who hunger for each other more because the script says they do rather than for any discernible connection between Thurman and Northam.

Wedge

Likewise, when Maggie and Adam come to suspect the truth and conspire to put a wedge between their spouses, they do so mechanically. Maggie professes to love Amerigo deeply, but the strongest affection the film captures is that of Maggie to her father.

From where the audience is sitting, the four characters have found their soul mates early on: Daughter with father, step-mom with son-in-law. Emotionally, there's nothing for Maggie and Adam to gain by disrupting this strange domestic harmony.

And the film never effectively takes up the intriguing subtexts to the story—that Maggie and Adam's relationship is a greater infidelity than Charlotte and Amerigo's, or that father and daughter are the true manipulators, marrying their spouses merely to add pretty new pieces to their art collection.

Of the four, Beckinsale does the best at infusing the film with real zest and sentiment, especially in her reaction to revelations that follow her purchase of an antique golden bowl whose subtle flaw is James' metaphor for the whole story.

Strangers

Thurman has one fine cathartic moment, but overall, she, Northam and Nolte come across as detached strangers thrown together for a little improvised play at a gathering of rich and stuffy Edwardian nobles.

The finest performances come from Anjelica Huston and James Fox as a lovingly bickering couple who are privy to all the machinations in the Verger household. In their handful of scenes, Huston and Fox show more chemistry than the four lead characters can muster in the whole film.

"The Golden Bowl," a Lions Gate Films release, runs 127 minutes *AP*

How to succeed in show biz despite the current slump

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER analyzing your performing abilities and trying to compensate for your weak points by means of workshops and other remedial measures, the next step is to make a list of the people you know who can help you gain entry into the world of show business.

Possibilities

If you don't know anybody in the biz, ask your relatives and friends if *they* do. Explore all possibilities and don't be embarrassed about asking for help.

Unless you're very rich and can finance your own production (starring you, of course), you need a boost from anybody who's willing to give you a helping hand early in your career.

Of course, you have to be on your guard against people who pretend to help you out of the goodness of their hearts, but actually have ulterior motives, specially of the erotic or power-tripping kind.

Overtures

Reject all overtures of that nature, because some show biz stars have proven that talented newcomers can make it in the biz without allowing people to use and abuse them.

Besides, oh-promise-me wolves in sheep's clothing hardly ever make good on their promises—so, if you succumb to their wiles, you'll end up holding the bag, and that definitely is *not* the way to go.

So, promise yourself that you'll make it on sheer dint of talent and determination, and you'll be far better off than all those impatient and lazy starlets who try to sleep their way to the top. You'll also sleep much better at night!

How can your legitimate contacts help you get your foot in show biz's door? You don't have to know a famous star or bigtime producer or director (*the* powers-that-be in the biz).

You may have a best buddy who's the classmate of a producer's son—things can start out that inauspiciously. But, if you get to know your friend's classmate well, and if he sees that you're goodlooking or talented (or better still, both), he could arrange for his dad to meet you—and, who knows?

Rejection

The point is to be open to possibilities, and not to get defeated by rejection. Expect a *lot* of rejection before you start getting good breaks, and make them challenge you, instead of make you want to throw in the towel.

Also, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Don't pin your hopes on just on one contact, get *20* contacts going at the same time, in the hope that five could pan out.

It's also important to realize that talking about what you can do is one thing, but the best sales pitch is if an interested show biz person can actually *see* you performing.

Stage play

You don't have to get on a TV show to do this, a small stage play can do perfectly well, provided you come up with an outstanding performance, and your show biz contact agrees to see you in it.

So, instead of just hoping for your big break, get a number of small breaks going on your own, and things could happen for you at a faster clip.

Want to cut a record? Come up with a demo tape that you can send your contacts in the recording industry. The thing to do something, instead of waiting for things to happen.

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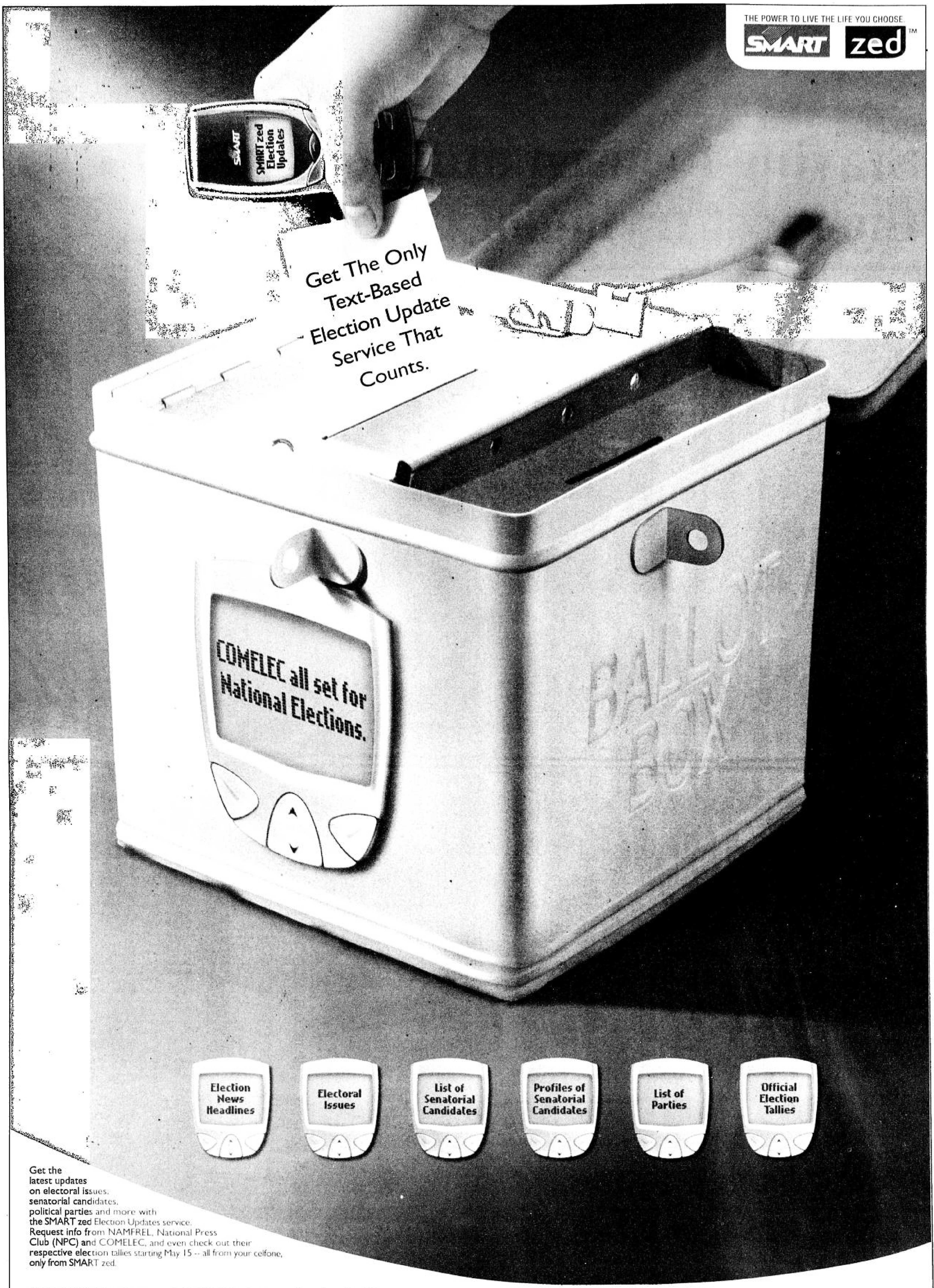
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GENESIS at 16

LEN DELOS REYES, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

Staying focused during the most trying of times

BY ARIES B. ESPINOSA

WAS it a "sweet 16" year for Genesis?

Ask Genesis co-founder and president Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, and her eyes would go round in disbelief.

"Last year was the worst year for us," she exclaims. And then she goes on to point the tumultuous political climate as the culprit. "The war in Mindanao; the impeachment trial; seeing how corrupt our public officials were, and what they would resort to just to hang on to power, and then I read in the papers over 300 companies closed in the Mindanao area as a result of the conflict. I got very depressed."

Angeli says, however, that it was this condition that inspired Genesis to contribute something to lift downtrodden Filipinos' spirits up.

"That's the reason we released the 'Revive' album, which is an all-Christian revival album. We wanted it to bring some inspiration and hope. The first single was 'I Will Be Here.'

"In other words," Angeli explains, "God's saying, I will be here, whatever happens."

PANGILINAN-VALENCIANO

VALENCIANO-MARTINEZ

That may be the single most significant contribution the people in Genesis may have given for their countrymen. The album has been a rousing success, and is moving rapidly up the double platinum status.

That may be the essence of Genesis' existence, then and now.

But what a time for Genesis to grow, and what an industry it has to guide.

Originating from the restoration of democracy in the Philippines in 1986, Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management, Inc. operates in an industry and a society of fledgling freedoms in all aspects of society. These are volatile times when various sectors would still be "feeling" their way through newfound individual rights. It would be easy to get lost into the rat race of individual glory and wealth and forget about the real meaning of their existence and the true purpose of their being born here in the first place.

In the show business industry, such opportunities are twice as large and twice as many. The task of turning show business lives around towards God in this industry would take double the efforts, double the pains and frustrations.

But Genesis has chosen to work in this industry. And for 16 years, it has proven that with God, anything is possible.

"When all things seemed hopeless, we continued to trust God that He is our provider, as we have been trusting him for the last 16 years. And for the first time in the history of our company, we were able to close about 12 endorsement deals for our artists in the first four months of the year," Angeli enthuses. "That's a big deal when you're talking about paying overheads and making up for losses in January."

Continuous tests of faith

HILDA KORONEL

JAMIE RIVERA

DONITA ROSE

Genesis mission statement is clear and uncompromising: focus on wholesome projects that glorify God.

"We want projects that have redeeming values, like 'Tanging Yaman' for Hilda Koronel or 'Heal Our Land' for Jamie Rivera," Angeli avers.

She continues to pray, however, that Genesis artists' ask for God's wisdom in their every endeavor. "We always ask protection for our artists. Even the staunchest Christians, like Gary or Donita (Rose) are presented with temptations. I always pray for their strength, self-control."

Angeli also constantly prays for her staff in Genesis, which she believes is the "greatest team in town (and I'm not biased)."

"Genesis' major resource is its people and the experiences of these people in show business." The experience, she reveals, runs not just in the number of years but in decades "Mike Jamir, for example, has been in the music business for over 25 years. Jojo Villava has been in the business for over 20 years. Gina (Valenciano-Martinez, Gary's sister and Genesis' EVP and co-founder) for over 25 years."

Angeli herself started her career in show business in 1979 as a member of the Music and Magic Band with Kuh Ledesma. "There's a lot of experience, and a lot of knowledge. A lot of mistakes, too!!!"

Genesis and its talents have been presented with countless "juicy" offers. Many of these offers had to be turned down, even if it meant it paid the rent.

Build the lighthouse, God provides the light

True to its original biblical name, Genesis, a place and time of "beginnings," hopes to start among its ranks a culture of industry excellence while at the same time fostering a life of God-centeredness.

"We're trying to develop a culture in the company. We cannot change the world, but we certainly can change our style at least within the sphere of influence you have control over. For us at Genesis, we want a culture that is professional, at least focused on Christian values, and not "racket-based."

For Angeli and Gina, there is no such thing as a "racket" project, only appropriate "gigs". "What we try to teach is that when handling a booking, we should ask the organizers what the booking is, the background of the company and what kind of target market the event is aimed at." Only then can Genesis, its staff and the involved talents ascertain what to present during the engagement, or if the project is acceptable or appropriate at all.

"I feel this is what destroys the audiences' standard of quality performances. When we watch a lunchtime show, for example, this actor who can't even sing is singing. And then you look at your roster and see half of your excellent singers can't get a job," she laments.

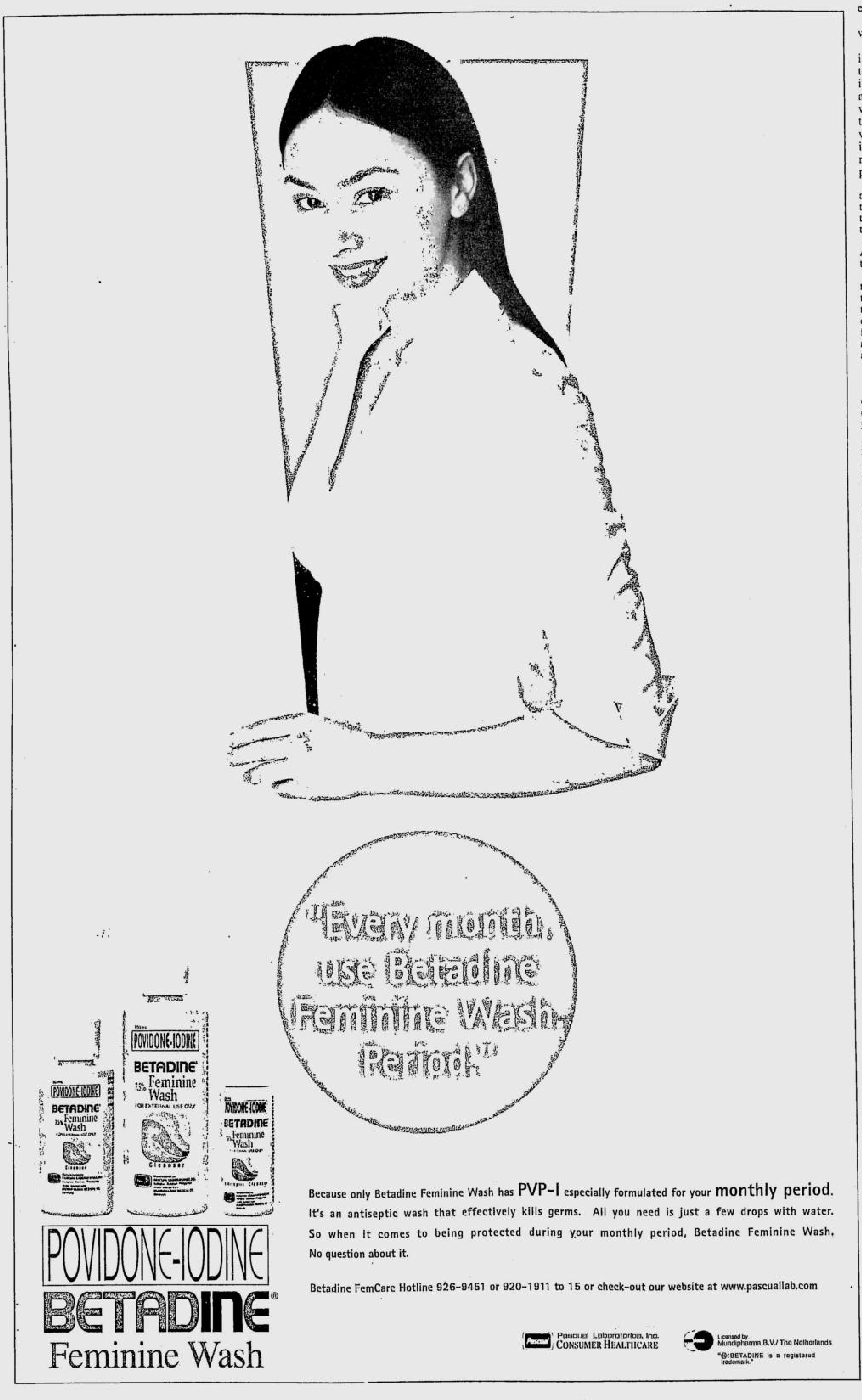
This adherence to show business excellence sometimes fuels speculations that Genesis is one agency that is just too hard to deal with, with its demanding managers and "holier-than-thou" attitude.

"I'm not a plastic person," Angeli counters. "We are very protective over Hilda Koronel. She has a heart ailment. We are very protective over all our artists. They entrust their lives to us. Can you imagine the great deal of responsibility we have? We feel we have to fight for the rights of these artists."

Just some of the basic rights of artists, Angeli believes, are their right to choose the projects they would be in and the working conditions they would be subjected to. "For us to decide, we need to see the script first," Angeli clarifies. And she makes sure that her artists don't get swamped with too many commitments.

She clarifies, though, that she does not make or break talents. The light from the lighthouse is but a

STAYING/ E5



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Behind the scenes

BY JING M. CARPIO

"WOW, showbiz! I've always been fascinated by showbiz!" replied my business writer friend upon learning that I have joined the staff of Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management, Inc. – the home of seasoned and well known artists such as Gary Valenciano, Hilda Koronel, Nanette Inventor, Leo Martinez and Donita Rose to cite a few.

NANETTE INVENTOR

MARICEL LAXA

PRINCESS PUNZALAN

I never thought I would one day be involved in the world of showbusiness. All through my growing up years, as I watched television and films or listen to pop music, I have often wondered how the artists live in real life — what their concerns were, what beauty routines they have, what kind of schedules they have, what kind of persons they are, how they cope with the fast-paced life, hone their skills, sustain their career.

Now, after spending more than two months with the company, I've had personal glimpses of what it's like to be in the celluloid world – behind the scenes, that is. For one, the irregular schedule is an eye-opener. Tapings for TV shows could go from sunrise to sunset – or sometimes until the next sunrise. This could be followed by another activity within the day – say, a TV guesting, a press interview, a four-hour pictorial or an out-of-town show. Whew! I admire the artists' stamina – despite all these, they can still manage to look great while entertaining their public.

I had the chance to talk to some of them and I realized, they're also real people. Candy Pangilinan shared the adjustments she went through after getting married. Maricel Laxa shared how she disciplines their kids. Princess Punzalan confided she's been looking forward to a vacation. Gary Valenciano said he admires how his son Gabriel plays basketball.

And I applaud the Genesis employees who continuously support the artists on their various activities. On the opening night of "Buding" last April 19, for example, a lot of the staff were there to give Nanette Inventor moral and prayer support. When Gary Valenciano opened his "Gary V: By Request 2" last March 16, almost everybody were there to assist in whatever way they can. When Donita Rose flies in from Singapore, somebody fetches her from the airport and brings her to her hotel and goes with her to all her commitments. Not very visible are the accounting department people who work till midnight to comply with never-ending requirements. With over 30 artists in Genesis who have varied projects, the task could be at times overwhelming. Genesis supports them not only in bookings but also in developing the talents they want to pursue.

The spirit of teamwork is high in Genesis. Each department's contribution is equally important to the completion of each task.

Looking back these past months, I realized that showbiz is real life with real people. It is not all glamour. Unknown to many, there is also lots of hard work. But then again, it's not all hard times there can also be fun times.

This is not a perfect world. Problems arise from time to time. Gary V's audio-visual intro for his concert may bog down. Trip arrangements may change at the last minute. Some circumstances may go beyond our control. But one thing is sure and this is where Genesis and its staff rely on: the goodness of God and the assurance that He is always present in times of trouble. With Him, we can look forward to another 16 years and beyond.

Staying . . .

(From page E4)

CARLO OROSA

CARLA MARTINEZ

RAY-AN FUENTES

SAMANTHA CHAVES

PAM G.

reflection from the true source. "I believe that every person was destined for success. And Genesis is here just as a conduit," she explains. "We tell people that we are not the source of bookings. We are never going to be able to give them great careers. It's a partnership. They do their part. We're just here to pass God's plan to them. *Taga*-negotiate *lang kami*."

The future of beginnings

Through 16 years of existence, Genesis has seen numerous artists bloom under its care. It provides a constant source of inspiration for the tandem of Angeli and Gina to continue with their mission in Genesis.

But what gives them the ultimate lift, Angeli says, is when they encounter ordinary people whose lives have been touched, one way or another, by Genesis' work.

"When we see a changed life, when we see that we have made an impact on lives, or help them accomplish God's purpose for them. When I see Gary perform in Christian concerts, and I see young people commit their lives to Christ. That gives me the most joy.

"There maybe a dozen human beings who have told us that Gary's 'Take Me Out of the Dark' prevented them from committing suicide. That's what our job is all about. It's all about reaching out to people, positively impact their lives, entertain them without abusing their rights and sensibilities."

In the next five years, Angeli sees more of such inspiring projects coming from Genesis.

"I think we'll go heavy into production. Right now, we're developing a script for a *telesine*. We'll be more into production, doing more specials. Gina has approved it, so this is where I think we should go."

STAYING/ E6

Manila Genesis Entertainment: its relevance to these changing times

BY JOJO N. VILLALVA

FROM an obscure artist management outfit that had as its first artist a promising but still developing singer named Gary Valenciano to a dynamic company whose services have diversified to include Artist Booking and Management, Concert Production, Events Management, Recording Production and Music Publishing, Manila Genesis has indeed, come a long way since. And why not, they've been around for 15 years and during which time so much has already happened. A lot of change has happened in the country's economic and political atmosphere, its musical taste and inclinations, and its fashion and social lifestyle. Amidst all of these changes, Manila Genesis has continued to thrive in its desire to maximize the potential of its artist or talent in his or her chosen field and to produce with professional excellence and integrity artistic and value-laden ventures.

Today, Manila Genesis proudly represents some of the biggest international and local names in the field of recording, film, television, hosting and even sports. Some of its named artists include Gary Valenciano, Nanette Inventor, Leo Martinez, Hilda Koronel, Gretchen Barretto, Kuh Ledesma, Donita Rose, Giselle Tongi, Princess Punzalan, Jamie Rivera, Candy Pangilinan, and Maricel Laxa.

Other equally talented and well-known names in its roster of artists include Dyan Castillejo, Mandy Ochoa, Chat Silayan, Anthony Pangilinan, January Isaac, Jobelle Salvador, Michael Flores, Alvin Anson, Felichi Buizon, Samantha, Carla Martinez and Carlo Orosa.

LEO MARTINEZ

GRETCHEN BARRETTO

In the field of sports, Manila Genesis also represents sports champions like PBA basketball star Jojo Lastimosa and international track star Elma Muros-Posadas.

Waiting in the wings are its line-up of developing acts such as the Canto Boys, Leni Rivera, Bobby Catimbang, Mia Flor, Pia Pilapil, Paolo Valenciano, Paul Cavett, Gabriel Valenciano, Pam G. and Kiana Valenciano.

Manila Genesis' stable of artists cover a wide field of expertise. From Singing to Dancing, to Hosting and Acting, from Movies to Television, Drama to Comedy, to Action and Sports, to Advertising and Christian Ministry Works. Manila Genesis has been blessed with an impressive array of artists whose professionalism, dedication and commitment to excellence has and have been acknowledged in their own respective fields of endeavor.

GISELLE TONGI

CANDY PANGILINAN

Despite all the upheavals and drastic changes that have affected the social and political landscape of our country, Manila Genesis continues to carve its niche in the entertainment world, ever mindful of its social and spiritual responsibility to a dynamic and ever changing society. Through its value laden ventures, Manila Genesis hopes to affect positive change wherever it may go. Whether in Metro Manila, the provinces or in other countries, its goal of promoting artistic excellence and integrity, positive values and professionalism, are the things that always come first. By adopting and adhering to these worthwhile values an entertainment company can truly be a catalyst for positive change. Manila Genesis has done so and in so doing, remains truly relevant to our society.

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Maricel Laxa-P.
MARICEL LAXA-PANGILINAN

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IT'S BEEN A CHALLENGING 15 YEARS!

And as we begin our 16th year,
we look forward to more challenges that await us
knowing that no matter how rough or tough these might be
you'll always be there to see us through!

To the artists, the producers, the networks,
the recording and film companies,
our friends in media, the sponsors, the advertising agencies,
the production houses, our corporate partners, the audience,
the fans, our families and to those who prayed with and for us...

We give you...
our COMMITMENT...
our SERVICE...
and our HEARTFELT THANKS.

Alvin Anson. Anthony Pangilinan.
Bobby Catimbang. Candy Pangilinan. Canto Boys.
Carla Martinez. Carlo Orosa. Chat Silayan.
Donita Rose. Dyan Castillejo. Elma Muros.
Felichi Pangilinan. Gabriel Valenciano. Giselle Tongi.
Gary Valenciano. Gretchen Barretto. Hilda Koronel.
Jamie Rivera. January Isaac. Jobelle Salvador.
Jojo Lastimosa. Kiana V. Leni Rivera. Leo Martinez.
Maricel Laxa. Miaflor. Mandy Ochoa. Michael Flores.
Nanette Inventor. Paolo Valenciano. Pam G. Paul Cavett.
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Gary V leaves for US for 'Radical World Tour 2001'

GARY VALENCIANO boarded Northwest Airlines flight 28 at 8:30 am on May 17 to embark on a month long 8-city concert tour in the United States. This is a follow thru of his successful concert tour in the US in October last year.

GARY V

Dubbed "Radical World Tour 2001", Gary V's concert series will take place in the following US cities/venues: May 19 - Reno, Nevada (City Center Pavillion); May 20 - Sacramento, California (City College Auditorium); May 26 – San Diego (Golden Hall); June 2 - San Jose (Parkside Hall); June 8 - Kansas City (Lyric Theater); June 12,- Houston, Texas (General Assembly Theatre); and June 17 - Chicago (Navy Pier) and June 22 Jacksonville, Florida (Florida Theatre).

During this period, US-based Pinoys and Pinoy-music foreign enthusiasts can hear Gary V render new arrangements to their best-loved tunes – old and new ones.

Travelling with him in the US are his wife, Angeli Valenciano, son Gabriel and daughter Kiana. Eldest child, Paolo, will join them in June after he completes a theater workshop in Manila. Completing the entourage are musical director Mon Faustino, Powerplay Band, vocalists May Ann Casal and Melissa Fontano, and Joshua Zamora and Bryan Rosal of Manoeuvers.

Back in the local scene, Gary Valenciano was nominated to this year's "MTV Pilipinas 2001" awards for the Best Male Artist category for his "I Will Be Here" and "Anak" videos. It can be recalled that Gary V won the award in 1999. "I Will Be Here" was also nominated for this year's Best Video category.

The UNICEF Ambassador of Goodwill has just completed a five-weekend concert series called "Gary V: By Request 2" where he was honored with a double standing ovation on the last weekend shows.

Apart from promoting his hit album REVIVE with Universal Records, Gary V is excited about an album he is currently working for Viva Records wherein he will record favorite tunes with the most of the country's top divas. Among them are Sharon Cuneta, Jaya, Lani Misalucha, Regine Velasquez, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Pops Fernandez, and Rachel Alejandro. He is also being offered recording contracts from various companies and television projects from TV networks.

Staying . . .

(From page E5)

Other dream projects would be a compilation of inspirational songs from some of the singers in Genesis involving Gary Valenciano, Carlo Orosa, Carla Martinez, Ray-An Fuentes, Samantha Chavez, Nanette Inventor, new find Pam G. and Jamie Rivera, of different inspirational songs

"In film, I've always wanted Gary to do a movie with Dolphy, or with FPJ. FPJ has always wanted to do a movie with Gary," she smiles. On TV, Angeli and her kids dream of Gary doing a comedy show. "He is soooo funny!" He is so hesitant to enter TV on a regular basis He has had so many offers. Oh well," she sighs.

And what about the live entertainment circuit? What has Gary not done in this arena? "A Gary and Sharon concert," Angeli answers. "And I'd love to have Jamie Rivera have an album where all the songs are composed by her. She's a simple but effective lyricist."

The sights are set for Genesis' future. The lighthouse stands, no matter how severe the storms are. The ships on the angry sea need only to set its sights on the beacon. And they shall find refuge and a place to anchor safely.

It is much like the story of Peter the Apostle walking on water, sinking only when he lost focus on Jesus and became afraid of the wind and waves.

"Peter was able to regain his composure and resume walking on the water (and did the impossible) only after he resumed his focus on Jesus," Angeli narrates.

It is her favorite story in the Bible.

ALVIN ANSON

ANTHONY PANGILINAN

BOBBY CATIMBANG

CANTO BOYS

CHAT SILAYAN

DYAN CASTILLEJO

ELMA MUROS

FELICHI PANGILINAN

JANUARY ISAAC

JOBELLE SALVADOR

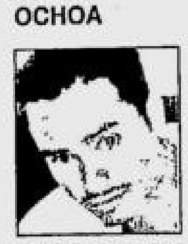
JOJO LASTIMOSA

LENI RIVERA

MANDY OCHOA

MIAFLOR

MICHAEL FLORES



PAUL CAVETT

PAOLO VALENCIANO

PIA PILAPIL

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

NEC-MITSUI, PLDT CONTRACT SIGNING

A contract was signed between NEC-Mitsui and PLDT covering the Post Warranty Services Agreement for NEC NEAX61Σ Switching System. Present during the signing were (front row, from left) Yoshifumi Matsubara, president, NEC Phils., Inc; Fumiaki Sugiyama, general manager, Mitsui; Ricardo Zarate, chief operation officer, PLDT; Eriberto Gesalta, first vice president, PLDT; Emeraldo Hernandez, assistant vice president, PLDT. Second row (from left) Ernanie Villazor, TAC specialist, PLDT; Henry Estolano, division head, PLDT; Reynaldo Esquivel, division head, PLDT; Melanie Sunga, Mitsui; Alona Gonzales, NEC; Yasuhiro Kuronaga, manager, Mitsui; Takashi Tada, special assistant to the president, NEC; Akihiko Matsuo, technical adviser, NEC; Bong Feliciano, R-TASC manager, NEC; Koichi Sakagami, general project manager, NEC; and Edwin Mariano, staff assistant, PLDT.

Shopping, entertainment and a place to learn about sports

A HUGE 20-meter-long mural of a cheering crowd evokes that familiar surge of excitement felt when entering a stadium packed with delirious sports fans. A nine-bank video wall flashes images of various sporting action, basketball, naturally, foremost. There's a track oval going around a "locker room" and a steel girded mezzanine representing a stylized bleachers section. Overhead, a grid of gym lights.

This is Toby's Sports Arena, the first and largest interactive sports superstore in the country, built by the Toby's Sports sporting goods retail chain. A mammoth 800 square meter multi-level store at the third level of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, it takes sports retailing to the next level by offering shoppers an interactive environment where they can have fun while shopping for sports apparel or equipment. The store was designed to simulate the experience of being inside a major sports venue with interactive features such as a basketball court, billiards area and the web kiosks for virtual sports game and Internet surfing.

The arena boasts of a commanding Shoe Wall in the middle, with over 700 of the latest styles in athletic footwear, arranged by category– basketball, running, crosstraining, golf, hiking, tennis, football, baseball, badminton, sandals, kids – for the customer's convenience.

Toby P. Claudio, operations manager of Toby's Sports says, "the arena was designed to recreate the experience of being at the World Cup, the Olympics or the NBA finals. People, especially kids, are used to being bombarded with various forms of media," he explains. "Toby's Sports Arena gives them something they have never experienced before, at least not from a sports store."

Toby's Sports Arena features the country's first interactive basketball shooting game, the "Toby's Shootout" The billiards "Showdown" meanwhile, lets a customer try out any of the cue sticks on sale at the arena and allows him to compete in a game to sink as many balls as he can within one minute. Toby's will give special prizes for players with the best basketball and billiards scores each month.

Toby's Sports Arena also features the Internet/Game Stations that allow customers to browse the redesigned Toby's website www.tobys.com.

ALASKA DAY AT SM CITY AND SOUTHMALL

As a special treat to all Alaska Aces PBA team fans, an afternoon with their favorite basketball stars was recently held at SM North and SM Southmall with Alaska Day's "Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo, sa Alaska Panalo." During the PBA Timeout Launch at the SM Megamall, top PBA officials Jun Bernardino (extreme right), commissioner, Ignatius Yenko (left), chair, and Wilfred Uytengsu, Alaska Milk president and PBAPI chair, gamely place their hands on the mold. The PBA Timeout runs until June 10.

Bits Clips

Coop transport in TLRC seminar

PEOPLE who wish to venture into the transport business but lack sufficient capital can hope to do so through the cooperative scheme and non-collateral financing. This is the essence of the seminar on operating a transport (cooperative) business slated at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), May 21-22, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For details, please visit the TLRC telemarketing office at Unit 712, seventh floor, CityState Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard (between Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound and Oranbo), Pasig City, or call 633-57-09 or 633-6728.

Catering seminar set

PROACTIVE Center for Training (PACT) invites caterers and restaurateurs planning to start or manage a catering business to its "Managing a Catering Business" Seminar-Workshop on May 21-29 at Triple V Express, second level bridgeway, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from 1 to 5 in the afternoon. Reservations are accepted at 823-4947; cel 0919-5500601 or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit PACT's website www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

Laguna High '54 class reunion

THE LAGUNA High School (LHS) Class 1954 will hold its 47th class reunion today, May 19, at the Laguna Cultural Center, Capitol Compound, Santa Cruz, Laguna with the theme, "Holding on, Together". For more information, members can call Napoleon Hubilla at (02)807-2982 or fax (02)807-2984; Amelia Soriano Pagkatipunan at (049)808-1090 or 808-1564; or Florita Santos Maslog at (049)536-2678 or (049)536-0547.

Tree surgery at Camp John Hay

AS PART of its continuing efforts toward the protection of the environment, the CJH Development Corp. (CJH DevCo) is sponsoring a training seminar on tree care and maintenance, with emphasis on tree surgery, on May 21-22 at Camp John Hay, Baguio City. The seminar will be held in coordination with the regional office of the DENR. For more information, call the CJH DevCo environment and government affairs office at (074)442-7902 to 08.

'West Wing's Schlamme part of new wave of TV directors

BY LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES—In moviemaking, it's the writers who get no respect. In US television, the Rodney Dangerfield role is played by directors.

Cachet

Scribes like David E. Kelley ("Ally McBeal," "The Practice") and Chris Carter ("The X-Files") are celebrated for their words and enjoy the cachet that in films is owned by a Francis Ford Coppola or Steven Spielberg.

TV directors, on the other hand, have been largely anonymous figures whose work is viewed as interchangeable. As the medium itself has evolved, however, it seems they are finally coming into their own.

Thomas Schlamme is convinced of that. He's also one of the reasons it's true.

"I feel so blessed right now to be a director on television," said Schlamme who, in creative partnership with writer Aaron Sorkin, brought the dazzling "Sports Night" and "The West Wing" to life.

Schlamme and other directors including Paris Barclay and Mark Tinker (both of "NYPD Blue"), and Kevin Hooks ("City of Angels") are creating a body of TV work that can be matched, frame for frame, with the best of feature films.

They're building on the foundation of Gregory Hoblit ("Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law,"), Eric Laneuville ("St. Elsewhere," "Bull"), Mimi Leder ("ER") and others. Some now shift between TV and movie work.

"These directors on 'West Wing' or 'ER' or 'NYPD Blue' are gifted artists," said Gil Cates, founding dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and currently the director of the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles.

Gifted

"The styles of those shows are directorial achievements; the rhythms and the performances are directorial achievements," Cates said.

FROM left, John Spencer, Kathryn Joosten, an unidentified actress and executive producer Thomas Schlamme (foreground) take a break.

MARTIN Sheen right, leads the way during filming at LA International Airport.

Schlamme's collaboration with Sorkin on "The West Wing" has produced a series that, after only two seasons, is destined for the all-time best TV lists.

Before that, Schlamme helped put the wit and sizzle in programs including Tracey Ullman's "Tracey Takes On ..." and "The Larry Sanders Show," Garry Shandling's sitcom mold-breaker.

The US NBC broadcasting network's White House drama, starring Martin Sheen as a liberal president with an idealistic staff, collected a record nine Emmy Awards last year and a rare second consecutive Peabody Award for broadcasting excellence.

Schlamme and Sorkin (along with "ER's" John Wells) share executive producer credit on "The West Wing." As the director of the pilot and key episodes including the season finale (which aired May 16 in the United States) Schlamme has shaped the series' look and tone.

He won Directors Guild of America honors this year for the holiday episode "Noel," which traced the lingering emotional scars from an attempted presidential assassination. It was his third consecutive DGA award.

"I got in this business to tell stories and communicate. I have to be honest and say 'Where is the material that offers me the most opportunity to do that?'"

The answer, he said, is television.

A bruising venture into films as director of 1993's box-office flop "So I Married An Axe Murderer" ("The worst experience of my career") moved Schlamme to an epiphany.

Preconceived notion

"Wow, I gave up television to do a movie because of some preconceived notion in my head that to be a filmmaker I had to make movies," he recalled thinking.

Schlamme, who's married to actress Christine Lahti, said he accepted that he could be a bone fide filmmaker by working in television, with movie detours if—and only if—"the script was as exciting as 'Larry Sanders' or 'West Wing' or 'Sports Night.'"

The bias against TV directors had legitimate roots, with a number of the earliest directors hired more for their ability to handle the newfangled equipment than for creativity.

Although interesting directors ventured into live television, it developed into a medium in which speed generally was valued over artistry, Schlamme said.

SORKIN, right, confers with Schlamme (foreground) and executive producer Lou Wells.

"I think it took a long time to evolve past that ... 'How many pages can I make today' approach. There was no concern about point of view or vision or anything like that."

The image of TV directors suffered accordingly.

"If somebody said to me when I was in college 'I think you're going to be a successful television director,' I would have been insulted, ridiculously so," said Schlamme.

That's because by that time, the 1970s, directors like Hoblit were beginning to open the medium up beyond the long-dominant static approach.

A "film vocabulary" was coming into play, Schlamme said. Directors were using inventive camera angles, pacing and other elements to squeeze more drama and style into the small screen.

The result: increasing regard for TV directors and some of the best television ever.

Pique

And while movie power continues to tilt heavily toward directors—writer pique over widespread use of the "A film by" credit for directors forced the issue into writer-studio contract talks—TV is breaking new collaborative ground, Schlamme said.

He and Sorkin have a relationship like "a 1930s playwright-director relationship in New York: 'I'll direct your new play, you'll be there for rewrites while I'm staging it.'"

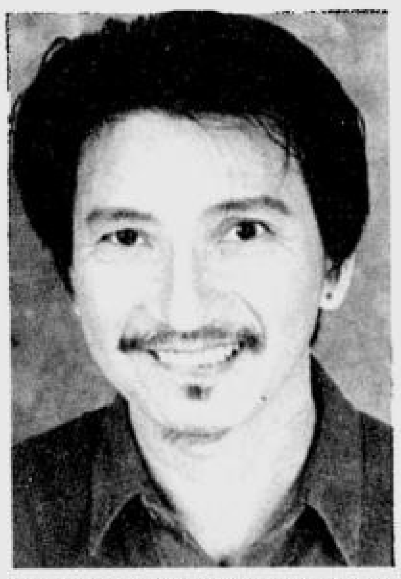
(For now, the show is on summer hiatus. Sorkin also is dealing with drug possession charges following his arrest last month at a Los Angeles area airport. He has pleaded innocent.)

Schlamme recalled negotiating with Sorkin over the pilot episode. The writer wanted to end it with the door closing on the Oval Office as staff members walked out; the director wanted to focus on the president left alone in the office, a shot proclaiming "this is the arena we're going to be playing in from now on," Schlamme said.

"That is the biggest push and tug, how far visually can we go here. Aaron feels it doesn't get in the way of what he's writing," Schlamme said. "My reason isn't 'Isn't that a cool shot?' It's that I think we can tell the story even better this way." *AP*

Cole Porter songs to be performed at CCP

THE YOUNGER generation may not be familiar with the name Cole Porter but they may have heard some of his most memorable hits—"C'est Magnifique," "Begin the Beguine," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "What is This Thing Called Love," and the ever popular "Night and Day" from the musical "Gay Divorcee."



VILLALUZ. An evening of Porter classics.

Porter left Yale with a legacy of 300 songs, including six full-scale productions

Piano and violin

Cole Porter learned piano and violin at age six. He composed songs as early as 1901 with a song dedicated to his mother, Kate, entitled "Song of the Birds." He published his piano piece, "The Bobolink Waltz" in 1902.

When he enrolled at the Worcester Academy, Massachusetts in 1905, Cole met an important influence in his musicianship, Dr. Ambercrombie, who taught him the relationship between words and meter and between words and music in songs.

Cole also studied at Yale University, where his songwriting talent was honed through musical productions for the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, the Yale Dramatic Club, and the Yale Glee Club.

He left Yale with a legacy of approximately 300 songs, including six full-scale productions. These productions helped him start his career on Broadway. However, his first Broadway show "See America First" in 1916 was a flop.

In July of 1917, he set out for Paris, a place where Cole flourished socially and managed to be in the best of all possible worlds. The parties during these years were elaborate and fabulous, involving people of wealthy and political classes marked by gay and bisexual activity, Italian nobility, international musicians and drugs.

There he met and married Linda Lee Thomas, a socialite. In 1923, he wrote music for a ballet, "Within the Quota," introduced in Paris and New York by the Swedish Ballet, one of the earliest examples of symphonic jazz.

Contracts

After early success with one-offs like "Don't Fence Me In," re-released in a World War II musical called "Hollywood Canteen," Cole signed contracts to do work for the film industry. The first film to contain a Cole Porter song was "The Battle of Paris" in 1929.

Other films followed like "Gay Divorcee" (1932) with Fred Astaire, "Anything Goes" (1934) and "Panama Hattie" (1940) with Ethel Merman. With these song and dance musicals came some of his best known melodies such as "Let's Do It," "Night and Day," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Begin the Beguine," "It's Delovely," "You're the Top," etc.

In 1937, Cole was injured in a horse riding accident, which caused the amputation of one leg. This dealt a debilitating blow to his mental and physical health. However, this did not stop him from writing songs like "Most Gentlemen Don't Like Love," "From Now On" and "Get Out of Town."

In 1945, he gave his permission to "Night and Day," a film on his life. In 1948, he had one major production, "Kiss Me Kate," based on the Shakespeare classic "Taming of the Shrew," which became very successful.

Other Hollywood films included "Can Can" (1953), "High Society" (1956) with Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, and "Silk Stockings." Porter was one of the most trained popular songwriters of the 20th century. The popularity of his songs lasted far beyond the lifetime of the man himself.

Pop album

One album that brought Cole Porter to many younger listeners was a fundraising pop album called "Red, Hot, and Blue" with his songs sung by popular musicians of the 1980s and 1990s.

His songs became favorite themes in later blockbuster movies such as "Jumanji," "French Kiss," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Hannah and Her Sisters," "Parent Trap," "Sphere," "Timecop," "Little Man Tate," "Mighty Aphrodite," "Meet Joe Black," "The Rocketeer" and "National Lampoon's Vacation."

Keeping the faith and talent of Cole Porter alive, a concert of his memorable songs will be interpreted by the country's top performing artists: mezzo soprano Josephine Roces Chavez, baritone Eugene Villaluz, pianists Della Gamboa Besa and Raul Sunico, guitarist Butch Roxas and flutist Antonio Maigue.

Performance will be on June 26, CCP Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. as part of the concluding CCP Special Concerts Series.

For inquiries, call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704.

Fr. N's theater etiquette for gentlemen

BY AMETTA SUAREZ TAGUCHI

AS I was cleaning out a closet, I found a memo that reflects the quaintness of the religious life.

The memo was written by Fr. Alfeo Nudas, S.J. who makes it a point to emphasize the "N" in his family name so that those who meet him for the first time don't raise an eyebrow. Fr. Nudas is the spiritual director of the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Cagayan de Oro, where he also teaches.

His memo informs the seminarians of a play on the conversion of St. Augustine, to be shown to them free of charge.

Cloisters

I thought English-with-Latin was no longer used these days. Evidently, it still is by the religious when they interact among themselves. Hidden in their cloisters, they converse like the monks in the Middle Ages!

To cite an example of their "hidden language," the memo does not simply inform in archaic English when, where and at what time the play would be shown. At the end of the page you find formally written: *Cum Patris Rectoris Permissu.*

The Jesuits are among the best educators in the world. In educating the seminarians, Fr. N does not confine his lesson plan to theology and philosophy. He also provides finishing school tips so that the future priests would turn out *simpatico* and well-liked by the flock.

"Many of the seminarians come from the rural area. They do not have the sophistication of city folks," the well traveled and sophisticated Fr. N explained.

Title

And so page 2 of his memo-*cum*-invitation is a concise theater etiquette for gentlemen, inspired by the 10 Commandments. The title of the piece is "Urbanidad," quickly and obsequiously followed by, "if we borrow a word from Fr. Rector." Fr. Rector is not around but everyone in the seminary must pay homage to his position—how feudal!

"Urbanidad" (*cum patris rectoris permissu*), teaches:

In general, at the theater and other places, be a gentleman, defined by Cardinal Newman as "one who does not inflict pain on others."

Particulars:

Do not inflict pain by smoking.

Do not inflict pain by coming late.

If you come late, enter the hall quietly. Stand in the aisle until your eyes are adjusted to the darkness and can see the empty seats.

The occasion may be formal, semiformal, informal. At the theater: semiformal. Pants, not shorts. T-shirt but not collarless. Dress comfortably.

On entering: usher, lady companion and you, in that order, if you have a lady companion. (This is not forbidden so long as it's platonic. AST) The lady sits first.

Running commentary

Do not inflict pain by talking aloud. People are not interested in your running commentary on the play. Keep your opinions to yourself till intermission or till after the performance.

Any noise, like scraping of the feet and snoring, can be very disturbing.

Usually there is an intermission and the lights are turned on. You may step out to empty your bladder, talk with your friends or simply breathe some fresh air. Usually there's a soft bell to tell you to go back in.

At the end of the performance comes the applause. Do not inflict pain by refusing to clap your hands.

Then comes the curtain call. The players come out singly or in groups in front of the closed curtain and are introduced. Do not inflict pain on them by refusing to clap everytime somebody or a group is introduced. Be generous with your praise.

Questions

Sometimes, after the curtain call, the playwright comes out, sits at the center and welcomes questions on the finer points of the play. Do not inflict pain on her by not asking questions.

In anticipation of a party after the play, Fr. N adds:

Be a gentleman at all occasions. Introduce the inferior to the superior. Hence, introduce your friend (inferior) to Fr. Rector (superior) thus: "Fr. Tim, this is my friend, Borloloy. Borloloy, this is our Father Rector, Fr. Tim." Introduce a man to a lady.

Do not inflict pain with your foul breath or body odor. Take a shower.

Do not use—never use—your individual fork, spoon, knife to get food from the common bowl.

Barbarians

"Urbanidad" is from the word *urbis*, meaning city, the opposite of *barbaridad*, from *barba*, beard. The barbarians are the wild, unshaven men of the jungles who inflict pain on others with their boorish ways.

The general rule for gentlemen can be:

The silver rule—"Do not do . . ."

The golden rule—"Do unto others . . ."

Or the diamond rule—"Love one another as I have loved you."

Fr. Alfeo Nudas is also the author of "The Jubilee Rosary," a book that teaches the new way of praying and experiencing the mysteries of the rosary.

Performer guilds discuss contract talks

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—In a business ruled by celebrity, two performer guilds said they plan to seek better pay and working conditions for little-known actors.

Negotiations

Representatives of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists are expected to begin negotiations this week for a new three-year contract.

"We believe there is a deal to be made," said SAG president William Daniels, best known for his roles on the 1980s television series "St. Elsewhere" and "Knight Rider."

Guild leaders did not specify how much of an increase they will seek. But they said talks will focus on helping thousands of middle-income actors earning less as production costs rise.

"These negotiators are all about working people who have families, mortgages, car payments," said John Connolly, an Aftra negotiator. "We think you should be able to make a living and that's what these negotiations are about."

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents most studios and networks in the talks, had no immediate response.

Optimism

Although talk of a strike that would shut down TV and movie production has rumbled throughout the entertainment industry for months, optimism has blossomed in the wake of a tentative contract agreement by the Writers Guild of America.

Negotiators for the actor guilds downplayed the likelihood of a strike, but conceded it's still possible if there's no deal by the contract deadline of June 30.

Of the nearly 135,000 performers represented between the two guilds, about 2 percent earn more than $100,000 a year.

About half earn between $30,000 and $70,000 per year and rely on residual payments from TV and movie rebroadcasts to supplement their income when they can't find work. An estimated half of the guilds' members are unemployed during any given year.

The guilds said they will seek an increase in payments to actors for TV shows and movies rebroadcast on cable and in foreign markets. The guilds also want higher initial pay for screen work and assurances that studios will limit the number of productions filmed outside Southern California.

Fairness

Chief SAG negotiator Brian Walton said keeping work in the Los Angeles area is a matter of fairness for actors who have dedicated their lives to Hollywood.

"The work that has been done here is now being done elsewhere to save two bucks," he said. "How come we can't be a little more effective with basic loyalties?" *AP*

Gossip and the cult of celebrity have gotten out of hand

By Nestor U. Torre

ENTERTAINMENT columnist Liz Smith guested on CNN's "Larry King Live" last week and came up with a number of interesting points related to the topics of gossip and celebrity.

Mutant strain

She noted that "an odd, new mutant strain of celebrity" has been introduced by the "Survivor" TV series— "ordinary" people who, after they compete on the series, become nationally-recognized figures, but sink back into anonymity after their "15 minutes of fame" are up.

"Television now creates 'semi-celebrities' like these," Smith noted, "and this has compromised the very nature of celebrity-hood itself. There was a time when celebrities were famous for life, but the show biz scene these days is littered with the carcasses of 'instant' celebrities who have quickly overstayed their welcome."

Insane

The movie studios of old used to create stars and other celebrities much more methodically. Now that television has become more powerful and influential, Smith observed, "gossip and the cult of celebrity have gotten out of hand, they've become insane!"

Smith also believed that television has "vitiated the power of gossip because there are now so many shows. Decedes ago, starmaking and starbreaking power was held by only a handful of people—Walter Wichell, Hedda Hopper, Louella Parsons—but there are many more now.

"Maybe that's a good thing because it spreads the power around, but it's also made the scene messier and impermanent."

Fascination

Smith acknowledged that a fascination with gossip can make a person shallow and excessively nosy, but she also found some value in a reasonable interest in gossip:

"We can learn a lot from gossip—it establishes the parameters of what you believe, your own morals."

Other observations: "Gossip has created a deterrent against good people entering politics. They're worried that some little sin they committed in college decades ago will be blown out of proportion by some gossip-mongers and ruin their hard-earned reputation

Affairs

"This is unlike the time of John F. Kennedy, when his sexual affairs were talked about, but not written about. There's a lot more you can say now, and some people keep pushing the envelope."

Smith went on to cite Tom Cruise as one of the big celebrities who don't allow irresponsible rumor-mongers to ride rough-shod over them.

"Tom Cruise sues a lot," she said, "to counter all those printed rumors about his being gay or impotent—and he wins a lot, too!"

Offenses

A caller wanted to know why Hollywood kept "forgiving" Robert Downey, Jr. for all of his drug-related offenses. Was this because he was merely doing what other stars were doing—only, he got caught and they didn't?

Smith wasn't quite so cynical. She said that perhaps Hollywood kept forgiving him was because Downey was a particularly gifted actor, and his colleagues wanted to give him another chance to reform, so that he could continue making contributions as an actor.

And she noted that drug addiction was an illness, so Downey, Jr. needed help, not social opprobrium.

Real story

Another caller wanted to know "the real story of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman," and Smith laughed. "Let's face it," she said, "in the final analysis, we'll only know the story that *they* want us to know!"

Another question had to do with cult figures like Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and Elvis Presley. Why did they remain popular many decades after their demise?

Smith noted that all three stars were unique personalities, and that they were relatively young when they died. She believed that this accounted for their having become legends who continue to fascinate people many years after their demise.

TOM Cruise sues a lot--and wins.

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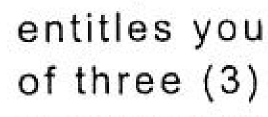

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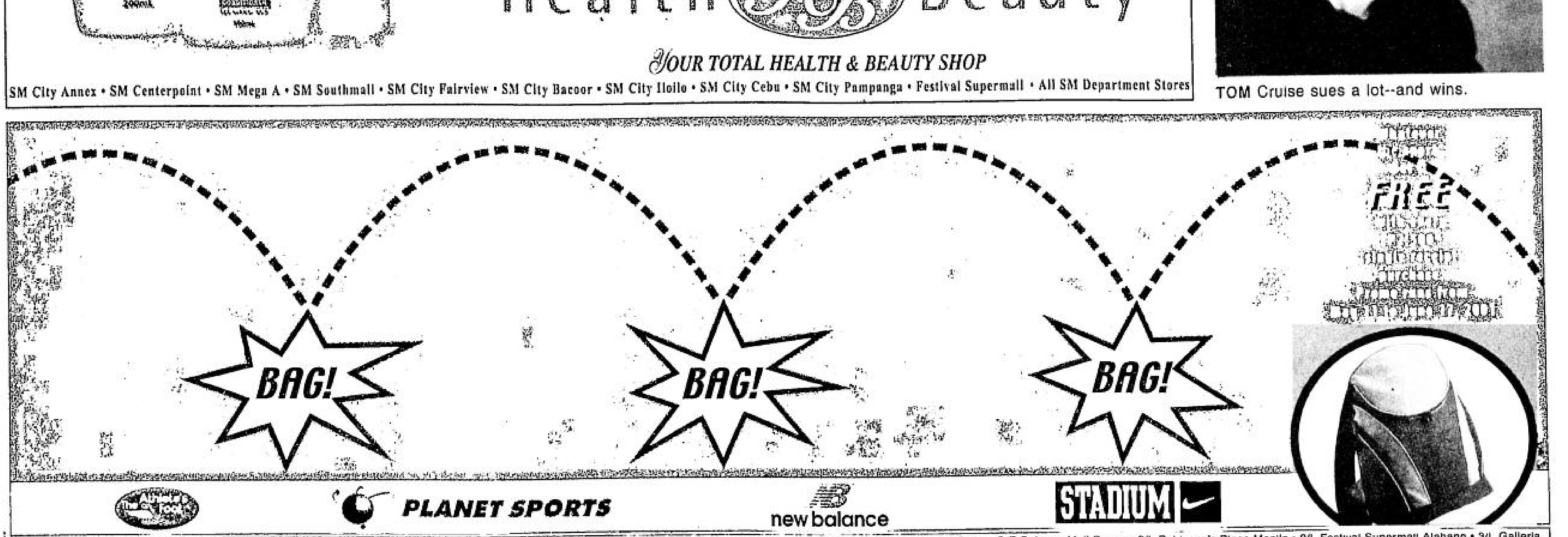
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Asian films excite viewers at Cannes

The success of 'Crouching Tiger' has piqued interest in action movies from Asia

MICHELLE Yeoh will make a special appearance at a party hosted by The Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

By Clar Ni Chonghaile

CANNES, France—When Japanese actor Yusuke Iseya opened his mouth to reveal his pierced tongue during a photo call, he was making a personal statement—but it could also have been a statement about Asian films.

They are cool, cutting-edge, and seeking both glory and financial success at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

Special edge

This time, they have a special edge as they battle to break into the notoriously wary American and European markets.

It's the "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" factor.

The success of Taiwan-born Ang Lee's Chinese-language martial arts extravaganza—the highest-grossing foreign film in the United States—has piqued interest in action films with an eastern twist.

"Crouching Tiger" was shown out of competition in Cannes last year but won some of the most enthusiastic reviews. It went on to win an Oscar for best foreign film.

This year, there are three Japanese films in competition—including "Distance" by Hirokazu Kore-eda, which stars Iseya—and two from Taiwan.

Expectations are particularly high after last year's Asian entries grabbed a string of awards—best director for Taiwan's Edward Yang, best actor for Hong Kong's Tony Leung and the grand prize for China's Jiang Wen.

Compelling start

Kore-eda's "Distance" got the Asian caravan off to a slow but strangely compelling start on Thursday last week.

The documentary-style film about the relatives of victims of a cult is loosely based on events surrounding the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo, whose members released deadly nerve gas into Tokyo subways in 1995.

Among the other films competing are "Desert Moon" by Shinji Aoyama of Japan, "What time is it over there?" by Ming-Liang Tsai for Taiwan, "Millennium Mambo" by Hsiao-Hsien Hou of Taiwan and "Warm Water Under a Red Bridge" by two-time Cannes laureate Shohei Imamura.

A slew of Asian film companies have come to Cannes, looking to find distributors for their works. And everyone is hoping the "Crouching Tiger" magic will rub off.

Growing interest

"There is a growing interest because of that film," said Mark Yoon, senior vice president with Korean CJ Entertainment which is pitching "Musa," starring Zhang Ziyi of "Crouching Tiger" fame.

Korean films have been enjoying a boom, especially since the 1999 success of homemade spy movie "Shiri," which beat all records at home with six million admissions—more even than "Titanic."

Earlier this month, Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group picked up the North American and Latin American rights for the $3.5 million film.

But the foreign success of films like "Crouching Tiger" does not mean selling an Asian film to an English-speaking audience is easy.

Yoon says that Korean films garner around 30 percent of the home market but admits that foreign deals are hard to come by.

"The world audience will take time, but it is doable," he said, adding that so far the biggest interest is, predictably, in action movies.

Visible presence

Another very visible presence on the Croisette is Hong Kong, although there are no national films in competition.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council has poured $3 million into funding its Cannes campaign and is representing 12 major film companies.

To raise their profile, they are also throwing a party—a must in this town. There will be champagne, dim sum and a special appearance by the star of "Crouching Tiger," Michelle Yeoh. *AP*

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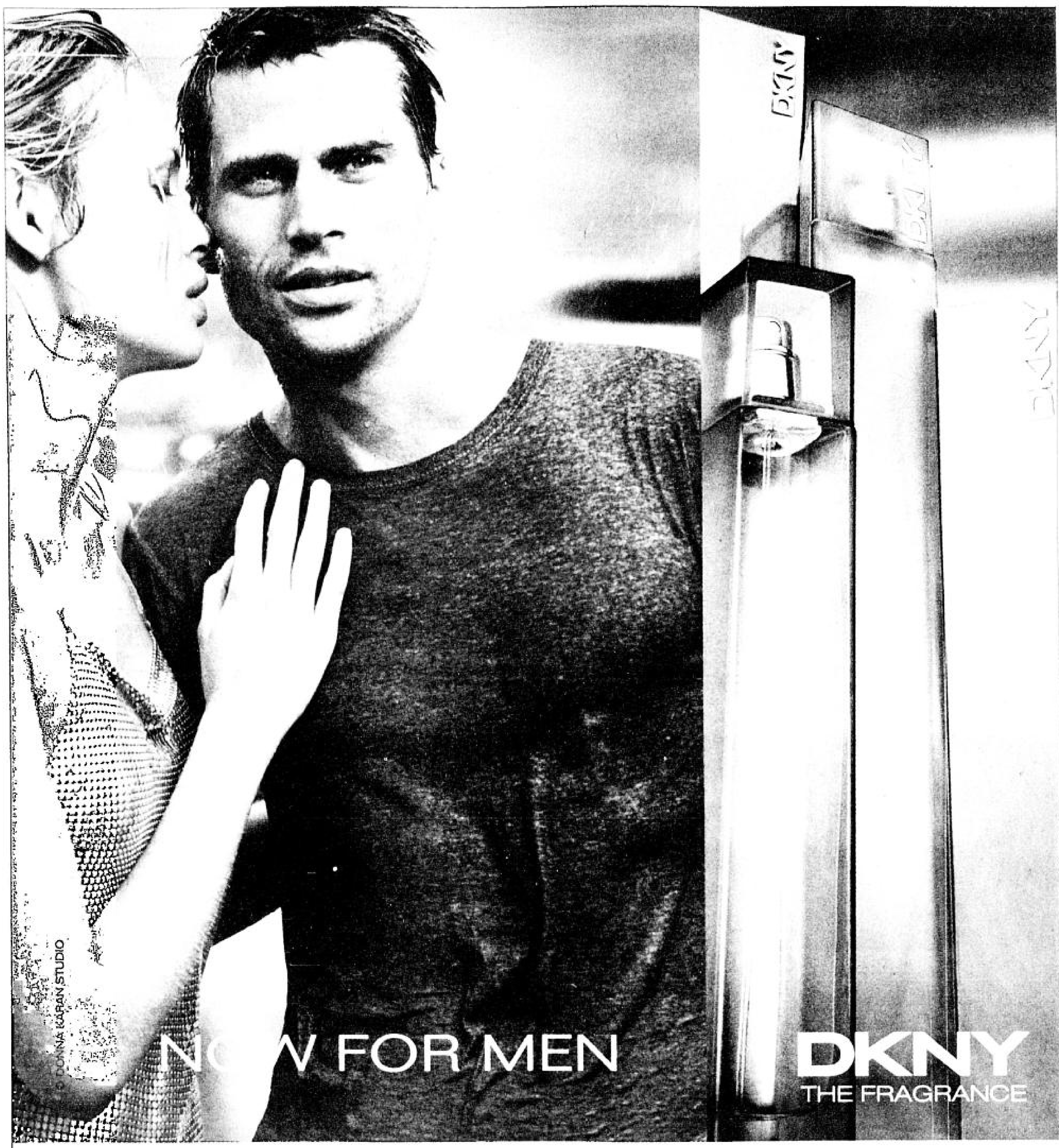

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Per DTI- NCR Permit #1402, Series of 2001.

Andy Bais comes into his own as solo performer

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE who have caught ace singer-comedian Andy Bais' performances in musicals like "Magnificat" and "Magsimula Ka," and comedy-musical revues like "Beauty and the Best" and "Nasaan si Hesus?", rave about his versatility.

Admirable combination

This has led Andy's friends to come up with the new musical-comedy production, "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands," to showcase Andy's admirable combination of entertainment abilities.

The revue is titled "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" because the gifted singer-comedian plays a wide range of characters in the fast-paced and highly entertaining show.

From beginning to end, Andy is onstage and goes from one number to the next, changing characters and costumes in the blink of an eye, singing and clowning around like a whirling dervish, constantly eliciting laughs and delighting viewers with his versatility and generous love for performing.

Versatility

Talk about versatility, Andy sequentially plays a veritable rogues' gallery of comic types, some 20 of them in the course of the show's running time.

In addition, Andy sings up a storm, his golden voice impressing listeners with its clarity and range. Andy's excellence as singer and total performer is confirmed by his having won the top prize in the prestigious Fe. S. Panlilio-sponsored search for the most gifted new performer, conducted by the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit.

ANDY with Christine Carlos (left) and Arlene Borja.

AND with Belinda Panelo in "Beauty and the Best."

His new show is titled 'Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands' because he plays a veritable rogues' gallery of comic types in it

First performance

And now, it's Andy's time to really shine and come into his own as a solo performer and total entertainer, with his new talent showcase. "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" has set its first performance at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 at the Where Else disco at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. For details, call Ariel at 713-9323.

Supporting Andy in the fun-filled comedy musical show are outstanding singer-comediennes Arlene Borja and Christine Carlos, themselves also veterans of many acclaimed musical-theater productions like "Bagong Bituin," "Mga Anghel sa Lupa" and "Bakhita."

Celebrations

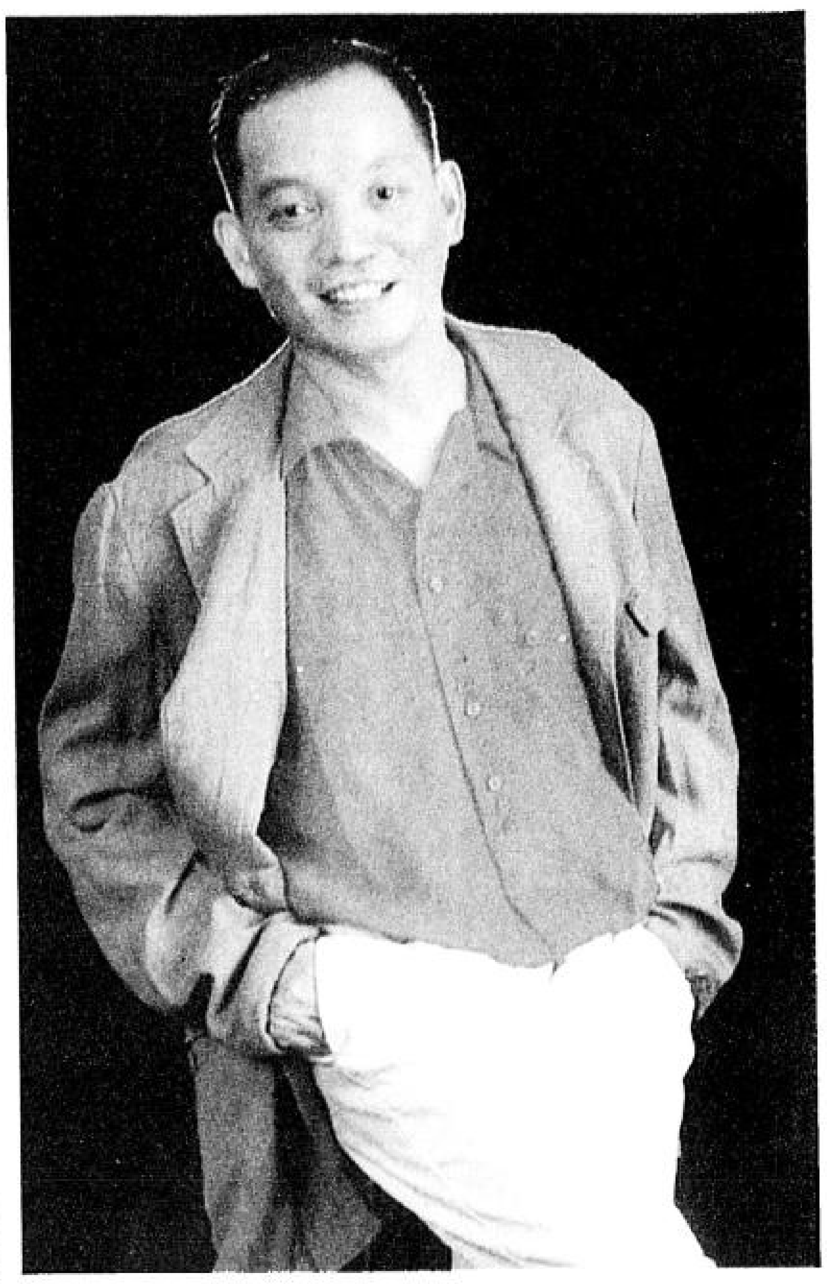
After its premiere performance on May 26, "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" will be performed in other nightspots in Metro Manila, as well as in major cities in the Philippines. The portable show is ideal entertainment for civic clubs' socials, company parties, birthdays and other anniversary celebrations.

Andy's friends hope that the show will introduce him to producers and directors of mainstream live entertainment, TV-film productions, commercials and other venues and productions that could make good use of his gift and zest for performing.

Common touch

They regard Andy as a particularly worthy talent to support not just because he's a talented singer and comedian, but also because he has the common touch, has a great work ethic, and has what it takes to go all the way to the top.

Dulce, Ogie Alcasid, Pinky Marquez, Belinda Panelo, Lea Salonga and other name talents who have performed with Andy in the past enthusiastically second the motion!



BAIS. Changes characters and costumes in the blink of an eye.

Ethan Hawke makes directorial debut

By Lee Yanowitch

CANNES, France—In his first try at directing, US actor Ethan Hawke delves into the dark corridors and seedy rooms of New York's legendary Chelsea Hotel, looking at the lonely lives of its inhabitants and mingling with its ghosts.

The bleak "Chelsea Walls," starring Hawke's wife Uma Thurman, Kris Kristofferson and Natasha Richardson, was screened at the Cannes Film festival on Friday last week.

"The Chelsea Hotel is the Ellis Island [illegible] Bohemian life. Anyone who harbored romantic dreams of artistic life felt at home there," Hawke told a news conference on Friday, so packed that photographers and star watchers spilled out onto the street.

New York's Ellis Island was the point of arrival last century for immigrants arriving in the United States from Europe.

Built in 1880, The Chelsea hotel attracted the likes of poet Dylan Thomas, Janis Joplin, Tennessee Williams, Vladimir Nabokov and Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe.

'Chelsea Walls' was screened at the Cannes filmfest last week

French actress Sarah Bernhardt moved there in the 19th century with the coffin she claimed to have slept in, Bob Dylan first sang his "Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands" there and Sid Vicious killed his girlfriend Nancy Spungen in one of its rooms.

Digital camera

In "Chelsea Walls," Hawke's digital camera moves from room to dim room. The somber images flow smoothly, often to the sound of a voice reciting verses of poetry.

The film documents the drunken musings of a brilliant, womanizing writer (Kristofferson), the isolated existence of a poet (Thurman), a pair of soul-searching musicians, both from Minnesota like Dylan, and two young lovers.

"I thought it would be good to shoot it in digital, which has a seediness to it that suits the Chelsea Hotel," Hawke said.

"Also, the hotel is so old and full of people that you couldn't get a 40-man crew in there or have all the electricity we would have needed for a film camera," he said.

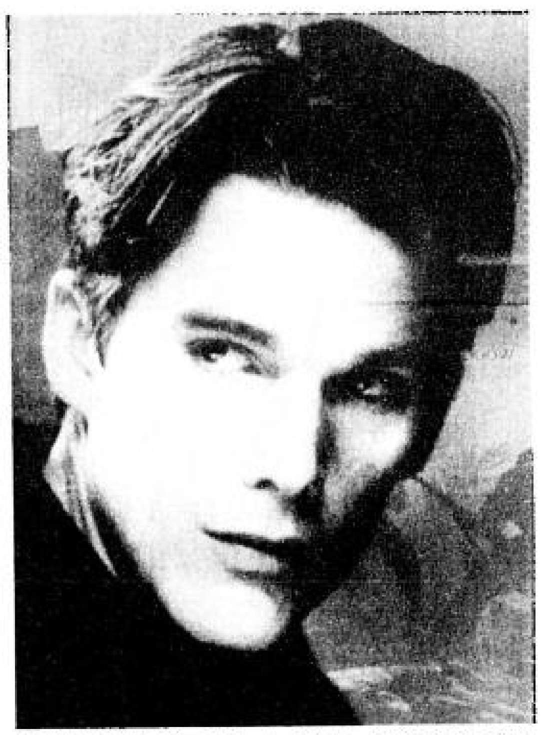
Hawke said he had seen a play telling the same story some 10 years ago, but thought that making the film would be "too abstract and difficult."

Rave reviews

But when he saw Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's award-winning "Festen," which was shot according to the Dogma manifesto and presented in Cannes in 1998 to rave reviews, he changed his mind.

The Dogma collective, founded in 1995, certifies films which use no artificial sound, light or props, film with a hand-held camera and avoid superficial action like murders or use of weapons.

"'Festen' was the most exciting thing to happen to cinema. When I saw it I realized that great films could be made in a totally different way," Hawke said.



HAWKE. His first feature film as director has won accolades.

Thurman said it was sometimes challenging to take orders from Hawke, her second husband after a first marriage to Gary Oldman.

"He was a little bossy but he's entitled to be when he's directing the film, and not when's he's at home where he's not entitled to be," she said to laughter.

The screening of "Chelsea Walls" at Cannes appeared to leave no one indifferent. It won accolades of "beautiful" or "stunning" from many viewers, while others called it the worst film they had ever seen.

Reuters

'Brokedown Palace' on Star Movies

CLAIRE Danes and Kate Beckinsale play best friends who take a fateful vacation to Thailand in "Brokedown Palace," premiering on Tuesday, May 22 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

DANES. Plays a wild teenager.

Liberating adventure

It promises to be a liberating adventure for Alice (Claire Danes), a wild, living-on-the-edge teenager. To celebrate her high school graduation, Alice and her best friend Darlene (Kate Beckinsale) have decided to treat themselves to an exotic trip.

Although Alice and Darlene have told their parents that they're headed for Hawaii, the two girls' actual destination is Bangkok ("Las Vegas without parents and laws," Alice enthuses to the more cautious Darlene).

Under the magical and golden Thailand sun, Alice and Darlene have the time of their lives. But things begin to change after they meet a seductive and handsome Australian, Nick Parks (Daniel Lapaine).

Both girls are smitten with Nick, who eventually asks Darlene to spend the night with him—much to the surprise of the more outgoing Alice, who must fight growing feelings of resentment and anger about her friend's romantic conquest.

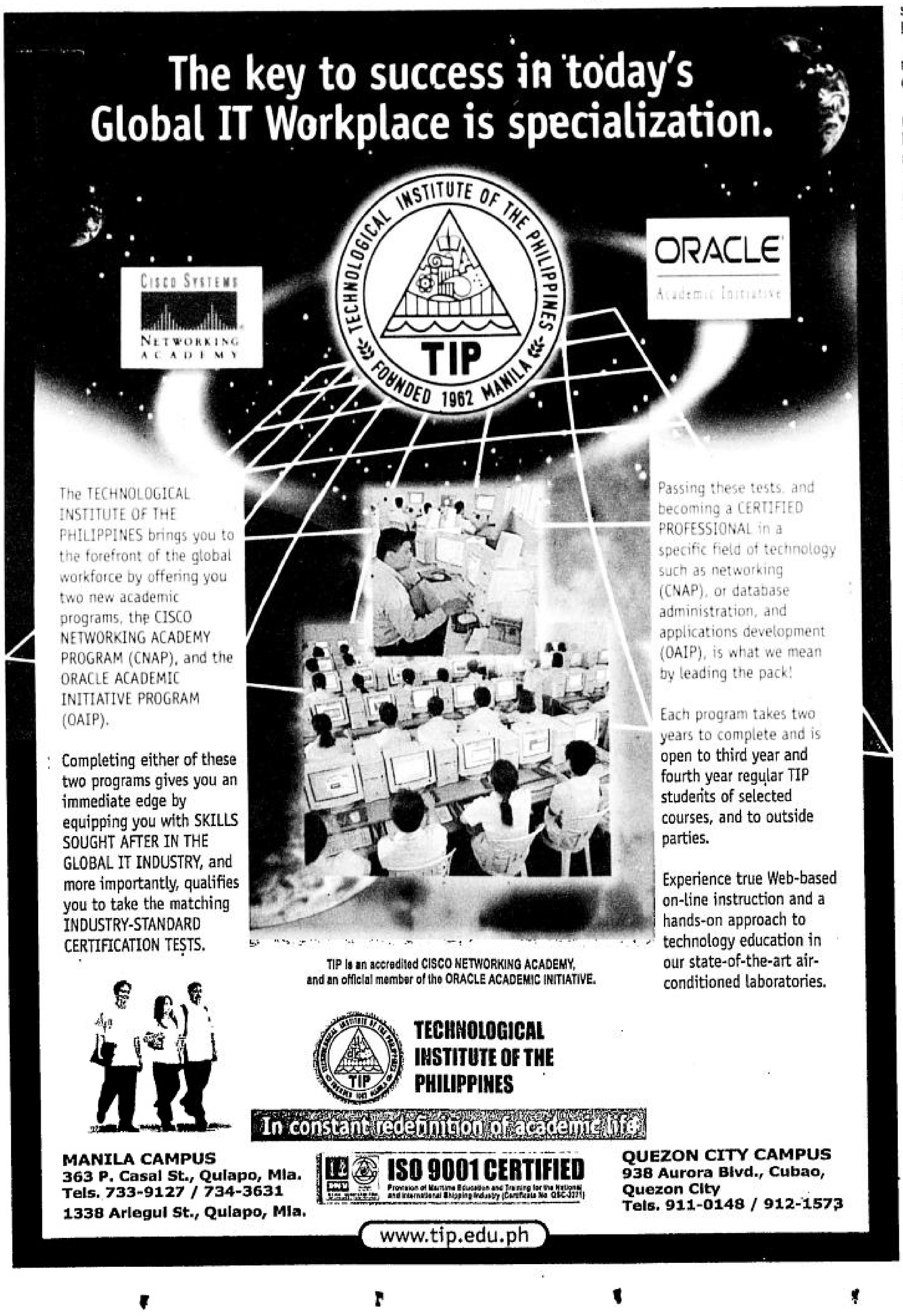
When Nick proposes a quick side trip to Hong Kong, Darlene convinces Alice to come along. Nick's real plans, however, are anything but romantic. At the Bangkok airport, the two girls are shocked when heroin is found in their luggage.

Hysteria

As they are surrounded by Thai police and DEA officers, Alice and Darlene are caught up in a maelstrom of hysteria, panic and confusion, each suspecting the other of a dark betrayal.

Their mutual suspicion intensifies during their first year—of a 33-year-sentence—in a hideous Thai prison ruefully described by its inmates as the Brokedown Palace.

As their despair grows, they are given one last bit of hope: "Yankee Hank" (Bill Pullman), an expatriate American lawyer. But Alice, who has always been the more reckless and irresponsible of the two, eventually realizes that their salvation can only come from sacrifice--and she realizes how far she'll go to save her friend.



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Kidman wows Cannes despite personal drama

By Lee Yanowitch

CANNES, France—Nicole Kidman cast off the difficulties of her personal life, took a deep breath and effortlessly stole the show at the Cannes film festival.

Separation

The Hollywood superstar had a lot to put behind her—her separation from her actor husband Tom Cruise, a subsequent miscarriage and the unwanted attentions of a persistent stalker.

Instead, top of her worry list on Wednesday night was a more practical problem—her high heels as she strode up the red-carpeted steps of the Palais du Festival for the opening night screening of her new blockbuster "Moulin Rouge."

"We were all afraid of tripping. It would have been so humiliating," the red-haired actress confessed with a laugh.

Clad in a black taffeta bustier gown, its skirts cropped short in front to reveal long slender legs, she defied convention, walking off the red carpet through a sea of jostling photographers to shake hands and sign autographs.

She showed none of the strain of her emotional split with Cruise shortly after their 10th wedding anniversary

"I never comment publicly on (the divorce)," Kidman told Reuters television in an interview.

Dignity

"All sorts of things are said but I really believe that the only way to get through it with some sort of dignity is not to be discussing it, not using the media to play it out," she said.

Kidman is deriving a lot of moral support from her family, with her sister accompanying her to Cannes as a high-profile date.

"I've got a great family, a really strong, really solid down-to-earth family," the 33-year-old Australian said.

Kidman is spending several days at this French Riviera resort to promote "Moulin Rouge," a $50 million song and dance spectacular in which she stars opposite Scottish actor Ewan McGregor as a famous nightclub performer and courtesan.

In contrast to her personal life, she had a ball making the film with McGregor, who said: "The first time we met, we started singing together. It's a wonderful way to meet."

Magic

Kidman giggled girlishly at a news conference and shared a cigarette with McGregor, saying she adored him. "When Ewan sang to me it was like magic, she said.

Kidman delivers a fine performance in "Moulin Rouge," Australian director Baz Luhrman's love story set in 1899 Paris in the age of artist Toulouse Lautrec and the high-stepping can-can dance.

But she and her co-actors are suffering from the typical cold reaction of the French critics. Some loved the film, others hated it, but few remained on the fence.

"It's like the very worst Disney, only dripping in camp," said Liberation newspaper, pouring scorn on the extravaganza.

Champagne

"A film like a glass of champagne!" countered La Croix, admiring the exuberance of the historical decors and the soundtrack of modern pop songs from the likes of Madonna and U2.

Kidman brushed off the mixed reception to the film, which is certain to raise her Hollywood profile even higher.

And on a personal level, she told French daily France Soir she has not given up on love.

"I still believe in love, I believe in the possibilities of love and I'm still excited by the possibilities of my future." *Reuters*

KIDMAN. "I still believe in love."

Ashley Judd stars in 'Someone like You'

JANE Goodale (Ashley Judd) is a young woman living in New York who is determined to succeed both professionally as a talent booker for a popular talk show, as well as romantically.

Floored

When the show's dashing new executive producer Ray Brown (Greg Kinnear) begins to woo Jane, she is on top of the world. Soon Ray's uttering those three little words, and the besotted couple finds a cozy love nest to share. But when Ray inexplicably cools their sizzling hot romance, Jane is absolutely floored—and unmoored.

In order to survive the breakup, Jane searches fervently for an explanation of Ray's behavior and thinks she's found it, in of all places, the animal world. Discovering an eerie correlation between men and their bestial brethren, Jane researches animal mating habits.

Because Jane gave up her apartment when she was about to move in with Ray, she must frantically search for a new place. She finds a "home" of sorts, plus some inspiration, in the most unexpected of places: Her womanizing co-worker Eddie Alden (Hugh Jackman) not only provides her with a spare bedroom but with a prototypical example of the male animal to study.

Jane shares this newfound knowledge with her equally single friend Liz (Marisa Tomei), an editor at a men's magazine, who convinces her to write a pseudonymous sex column. Jane's column quickly becomes a sensation and she unwittingly finds herself the most talked-about woman in the nation

Human heart

But despite Jane's attempts to demystify romance, and as things heat up between her and Eddie, Jane finds that after all, the human heart—even a man's—is more complicated than mere instinct.

Producer Lynda Obst, a best-selling author herself ("Hello, He Lied: And Other Truths From the Hollywood Trenches"), read a very early manuscript of Laura Zigman's debut novel, "Animal Husbandry," and fell in love with it immediately.

"I read it in loose pages, not even galleys, and I loved the sensibility," remembers Obst. "It was completely unique, which is hard to find because I've made a lot of romantic comedies."

The story of one young woman's attempt to explain her heartbreak by using the model of animal behavior struck a familiar chord with Obst.

"I am constantly theorizing about human and particularly male behavior," she says. "And, like Jane, I use scientific and socio-biological descriptions to get a handle on the inexplicable."

Central character

Determined to turn Animal Husbandry into a motion picture, Obst felt that the novel's central character, Jane Goodale (who was loosely based on Laura Zigman's own experiences as a publicist), was someone to whom many moviegoers could easily relate.

"I would describe Jane as a really smart, vulnerable modern woman who wants it all, but in a very simple way," says Obst. "She wants to be able to be loved for who she is, have a job and realize her dreams."

Obst's enthusiasm about Zigman's book was soon shared by many, as the novel became very popular.

Obst hired screenwriter Elizabeth Chandler to adapt Zigman's book. "Elizabeth Chandler can write anything," says Obst, who had been looking for a project for the writer. "We had a meeting and she made me laugh. I gave her the novel and she adored it."

"I knew probably within the first 30 pages that I definitely wanted to do it," says Chandler. "I just thought it was hilarious. I hadn't written a romantic comedy in a while, and I loved the story's romantic angst. It's about issues we all deal with and we're neurotic about, and it had a take on it that I had never seen explored or seen before."

Acclaim

After sending the script to some of Hollywood's top comedic actors, Obst learned that Ashley Judd was very interested in the part of Jane. While Judd had received acclaim for her roles in dramas or thrillers such as "Ruby in Paradise," "Kiss the Girls," and "Heat," she had not been known for romantic comedies.

"I was surprised because I never thought of Ashley as a New York journalist type," says Obst. "But she walked into my office like a Ph.D. in anthropology, sat down, and really impressed me. She was astonishingly intellectual, incredibly verbal and totally New York. Cool and smart."

ASHLEY/p.F4

JUDD. Cool and smart.

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Search is on for new Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize laureates

By Nestor U. Torre

SINCE ancient times, Fukuoka has been regarded as one of Japan's cultural gateways, promoting exchanges with other peoples, particularly other Asians. That's why it was thought fitting when in 1990, Fukuoka City established the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes, with the cooperation of educators and the private sector.

New aim

The prizes aim to develop a strong awareness of Asian art, science and culture worldwide, and to contribute to mutual undertstanding and peace. In 1999, the prizes' 10th anniversary, a new aim was added: to foster and preserve Asian culture.

In 1999, the Grand Prize was awarded to a filmmaker, Taiwanese, Ho Hsiao Hsien; the Academic Prizes went to ethnologist Obayashi Taryo from Japan and historian Nidhi Edseewong from Thailand; and the Art and Culture Prize was given to visual and performance artist Tang Da Wu from Singapore.

Recommendations

How did these four winners emerge from a field of over 1,000 nominees? The prizes' screening committee tapped 4,000 nominators from 55 countries, in addition to past laureates, to survey the Asian organizations and individuals working in the field of arts and culture, and to come up with their recommendations.

The candidates were evaluated by the Academic Prize Selection Committee and the Arts and Culture Prize Selection Committee to choose particularly strong nominees for their specific categories.

Contributions

Then the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize Screening Committee focused on those strong candidates, and evaluated their contributions and achievements in greater detail. The committee members also considered the nominees' potential to make future contributions in the field of art and culture.

Filmmakers Hou Hsiao Hsien was both surprised and heartened by his being chosen as the winner of the Grand Prize, which included a cash award of five million yen.

In his acceptance speech, he said that he had been making movies for more than 25 years, and shared, "My attitude towards my work has gradually changed: to just describe and not create. I've realized that what I am shooting is a real world, and I am just an observer, just a person who is interpreting and documenting.

Addition

"Respect and kindness must be paid to the subjects I film, and I should not interfere and make an addition."

Hou Hsiao Hsien made his debut as film director in 1980. His outstanding works include "The Boys from Fengkui," "A Summer at Grandpa's" and "Dust in the Wind." They are suffused with his ardent love for Taiwan and its young people.

Taiwan's shift towards liberalization was encouraged by his major work, "A City of Sadness" (1989), which won the Golden Lion prize at the Venice International Film Festival. The film helped effect global awareness of the changes that Taiwan was experiencing in the '80s.

Essence

The award citation praised the Taiwanese filmmaker for "embodying the essence of Asian arts today, in that his films present a deep observation of the reality of Taiwan, examine Chinese civilizations and articulate people's hopes."

The Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes are supported by Fukuoka City and the Yokatopia Foundation. The search for new laureates is on, and the prizes' appointed nominators are looking for these touchstones of excellence:

For the Grand Prize, the chosen laureate should have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and creation of the unique and diversified cultures in Asia, thus exhibiting the significance of Asian culture to the world through the internationality, universality, popularity and creativity of his achievements.

Promotion

For the Academic Prize, the laureate's achievements should be in the field of Asian studies, thus contributing to the promotion of the world's understanding of Asia.

And for the Arts and Culture Prize, the laureate should be making outstanding contributions to the cultivation or advancement of the characteristic and diverse arts and culture of Asia.

We hope that a Filipino emerges as one of this year's laureates. There are nominators surveying the Philippine arts and culture scene, so deserving candidates will just have to sit tight (and continue working) as their achievements are being evaluated—and hope for the best!

1999 winners at the prize presentation ceremony.

HO HSIAO HSIEN. Grand prize winner for 1999.

LAUREATES participate in a panel discussion.

Ashley Judd stars in 'Someone like You'

(From page F3)

"I decided at that point if Ashley was willing to put her heart and soul on the line and do this film, I could see that this was the piece that would help define a new range for herself," says Obst "Ashley has that elusive quality that makes a great movie star. She is your girlfriend, she could be you, you root for her and genuinely like her."

Enthusiasm

Judd shared Obst's enthusiasm for the project, and she embraced the challenges of the role of Jane Goodale. "The appeal of the script had a lot to do with the fact it was uncharted territory for me," says Judd.

"It was unlike anything I'd ever done. 'Someone Like You' had such comedic possibilities—a lot of times at my expense and seeing as how the humor in my family has usually come at my expense, I thought maybe it won't be so hard after all."

With Ashley Judd aboard, Obst approached actor/director Tony Goldwyn, with whom she had collaborated on another project, about directing "Someone Like You." Goldwyn's acclaimed directorial debut, "A Walk on the Moon" had convinced Obst that he was the right person for the job. "It made me weep and I understood from seeing that film how well he understood women," she explains

Perfect match

"Lynda asked me if I was interested and told me that Ashley was involved." Goldwyn relates. "And I thought what a brilliant role for Ashley Judd. I thought it was a perfect match."

Having acted with Judd in the motion picture thriller "Kiss the Girls," Goldwyn already knew that she had a terrific sense of humor, "Ashley is really smart and has a great wit." he says.

The role also required strength and backbone. "Someone Like You" is about a girl who gets her heart broken and becomes completely obsessive about why men leave women. In order for the character and film to work, we needed an actress with a strong spine, and Ashley certainly fulfilled that requirement and much more."

Goldwyn's involvement was a turning point in the evolution of the script. "There hadn't been a man around this script for years," says Obst.

Ideas

"Suddenly there was testosterone and a man's lens looking at this thing." Goldwyn, like Obst, brought numerous ideas to the screenplay. His first change centered on Ray and Eddie, the male characters from Zigman's book.

"Funny as they were, both Ray and Eddie were really reprehensible men in the novel," says Goldwyn. "I thought it would be more interesting if it we didn't just trash men, but show everyone has a point of view."

So Goldwyn took steps to make Ray more realistic. The character, who is the executive producer of the show that Jane works on, and who sets the story in motion by falling in love with Jane and then breaking her heart, was key to the film.

"It's very important to me that this relationship be one that we invest in and we fall in love with Ray, as Jane does," Goldwyn explains "Ray's been involved with another woman in a relationship that he's disenchanted with, and he falls head over heels in love with Jane, over-commits himself and realizes he can't go the distance with her and ends up breaking her heart."

Sympathetic

In order to ensure that Ray remains sympathetic, even when he breaks up with Jane for no apparent reason, the filmmakers cast popular comic actor and Academy Award nominee Greg Kinnear

"Greg has tremendous charm and is a truly great comedian," says Goldwyn. "He makes Ray terribly human and intelligent so you can't make a judgment on the guy."

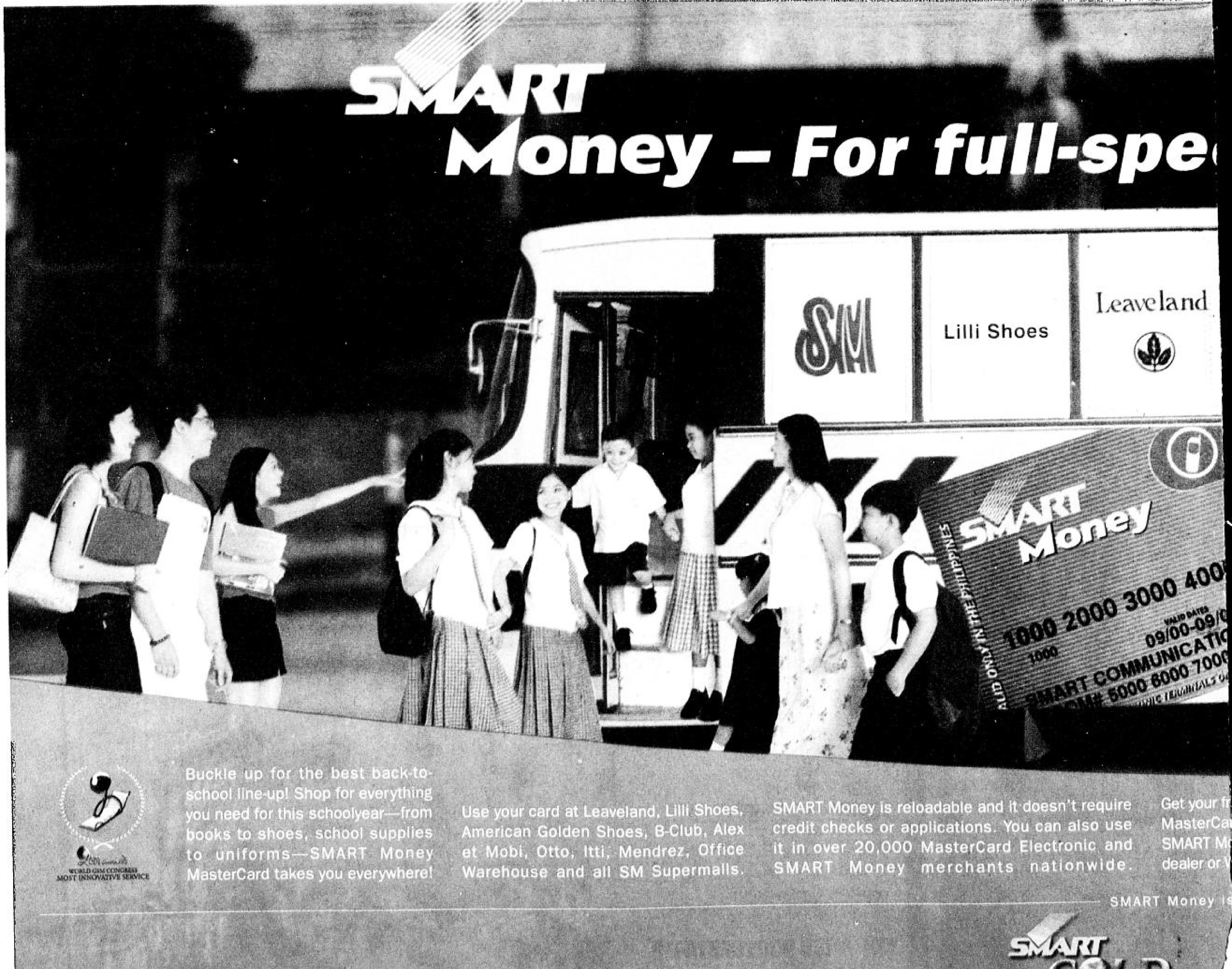
Kinnear sees Ray as someone who is striving to balance his professionalism with his personal life. "Ray is very much a part of a working family unit, and he has to betray that because he's swept up in a relationship," says the actor. "Jane provides him with a support system that he's not getting from hi current girlfriend."

When Ray dumps Jane, she is completely thrown for a loop and tries to fin an explanation for what's happened "When Jane's heart is broken, she retreat to her mind to protect her heart, so sh doesn't have to feel again," Obst explain

Jane comes up with a theory tha states that male philandering is instinctual. "She comes upon an article in Th New York Times about bovine male behavior that says once a bull has mate with a given cow, he will not go back t that cow a second time," says Goldwy

"So Jane says, wait, that's just lik guys."

"You can gussey 'em up, you ca dress 'em up, put a little perfume on 'en but the bull knows old cow," laugh Kinnear. "Ray is looking for a new cow.



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Confessions of a line producer

By Norma Japitana

CESAR Montano sets up a shot for his new movie.

THE IDEA of line production in the Philippines is making a film out of OPM (Other People's Money). The resources are usually limited compared to the grandiose plan of the movie in your mind. This is what makes line producing here creative, challenging and of course, exciting.

Special powers

We are now in the midst of filming "Mananabas," a Rambo-like movie about a group of soldiers who survive in the jungle by honing their special powers. "Mananabas" stars Cesar Montano, who is also my co-line producer. This is the eighth time we're line-producing a film. Cesar is also the director and once again we go into our usual routine of his being creative and expensive and my role as the tightwad counting even the bullets used in the action scenes and arguing with the "goons" over their talent fees.

As Hermie Go used to tell me: "*Wala man lang sugat, naniningil ng* P2,000! *Hindi man lang nabalian*!" Some will actually act as if they are in pain!

We were on our tenth day of shooting. The location was in Tanay, Rizal, the camping site inside the Sacramento Resort. This is a two-hour ride from my office on Tomas Morato. The scene that day called for a military camp to be raided by the "Mananabas" who kill most of the soldiers. Our production designer, the award-winning Ben Payumo, set up a camp site in this forest consisting of 10 tents of different sizes. Ben is the favorite PD of Ronnie Poe and is used to building a set fast and cheap. A village for P30,000? Ben can do it.

For this scene, Cesar, as director is asking for 50 soldiers in full uniform. I whisper to the coordinator: "40 *na lang, hindi na mahahalata 'yan.*" I was thinking of the cost of the uniforms and the shoes, plus the food and transportation needed for the "soldiers."

Cesar plays the leader of the "Mananabas," a group of seven men who possess special powers. They can hear and smell and kill their enemies. It seems that they got this from a special herbal brew. Their eyes actually turn red from drinking this special brew. They are fast and quick and ready to kill.

Wig

Cesar has to wear a wig and grow his beard. He has tatoos all over. The same with the six others—Rommel Montano, Jerry Lopez, Jess Sanchez, Cris Aguilar and Joel Apalla. The tattoo artist is asking for P12.000 daily for his work on the seven. I heard someone scream with my voice. The special wigs of Cesar costs P10,000 each and he has to have two. One day the wigs were brought out by one of the *baklitas* on the set and could not be found. Hell broke lose and we almost packed up for the day.

Ben Payumo came up with a substitute wig borrowed from a beauty parlor but it was stiff so we had to cut chunks off, so it looked like the other one. Cesar kept a stiff upper lip throughout this scene, especially because he had to emote in front of the camera and then look behind it with the defective wig and costume on him.

The "Mananabas" have to be fitted with red contact lenses to give them that special look after drinking the brew. We got three pairs at P4,000 each and were told to wait for two months to get four more. We asked Cesar if he could shoot with three pairs *muna* till we got the other contact lenses. Cesar replied with a resounding *no*.

Ben again came to the rescue. He scoured the Paterno, Quiapo area and finally got three more in varying shades of red. Eureka! Now we were ready to shoot all seven of them with their red eyes!

Von Vibar plays the role of General Torre, the good general who is helping Marasigan, the role played by Cesar. While shooting a scene in Pandi, Bulacan, Von felt feverish and started throwing up. He was not able to shoot the next day as his foot started swelling. He went to the hospital for medication and slowly it is getting back to normal.

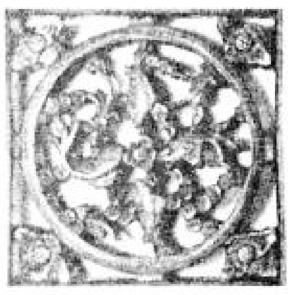
Namalikmata was the diagnosis of Mang Crispin, the caretaker of the place. There is a special lady in that place who seems to like *mestizos* like Von. Von is such a good actor and easy to work with, so it is always nice to have him.

Extras

For every shooting day, the minimum expense is P100,000. That is without the stars' talent fees and the weekly payroll. If you are shooting an action movie with lots of extras and special effects, that goes up like a rocket. P100,000 is basically for the meals, the location rentals, the transport and gasoline and the extras who are paid cash on the set.

You need a director who is cost conscious. Buboy (Cesar Montano) is not. He says it affects his creativity. But he is a good director with grand and novel ideas. Very young and costly

CONFESSIONS/ p.F7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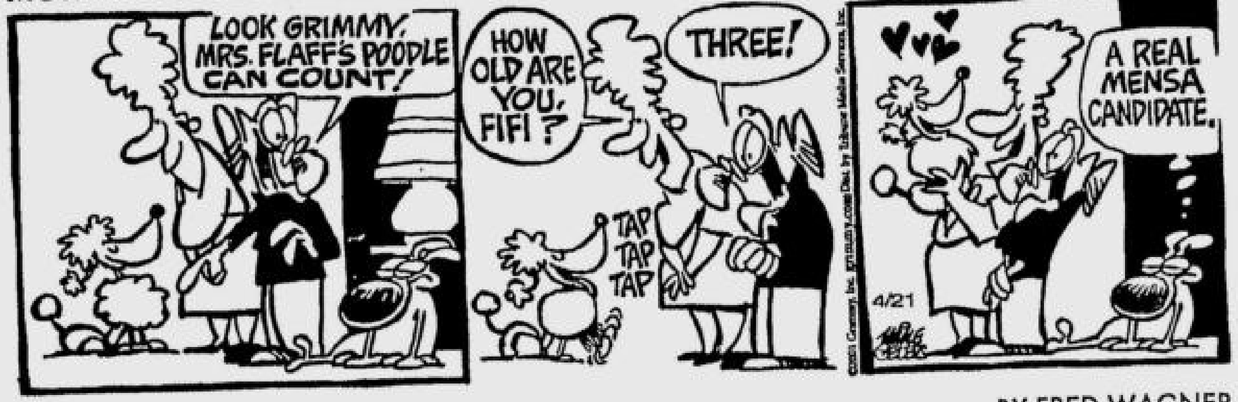
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ANIMAL CRACKER

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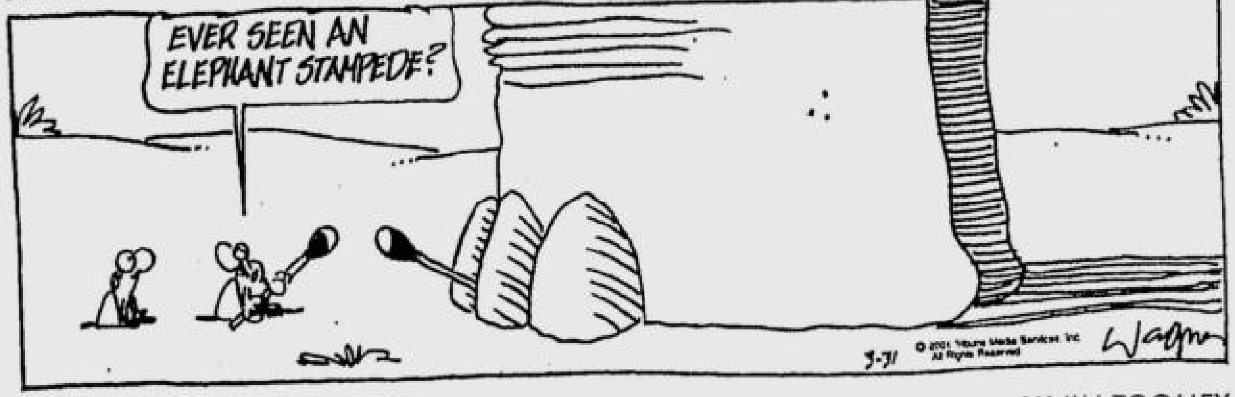
EVER SEEN AN ELEPHANT STAMPEDE?
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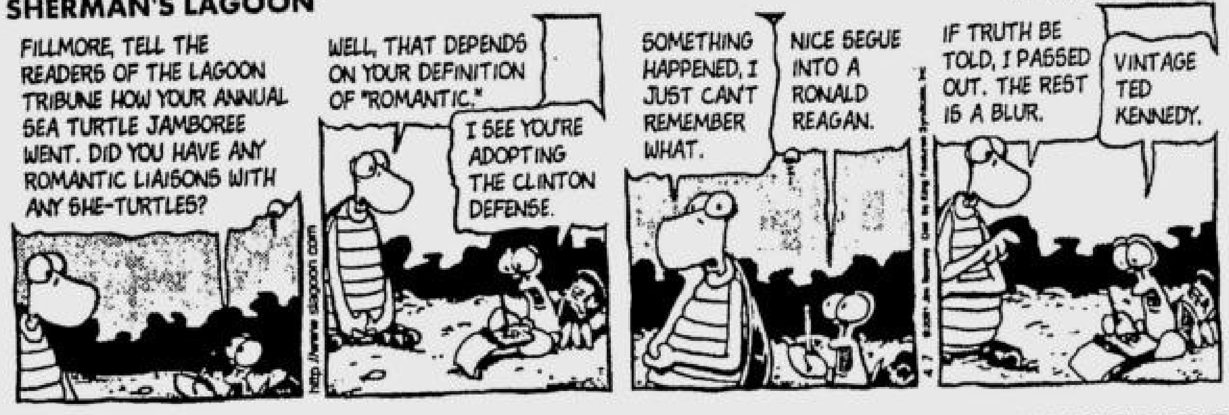
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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WELL, THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF "ROMANTIC."
I SEE YOU'RE ADOPTING THE CLINTON DEFENSE.
SOMETHING HAPPENED, I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT.
NICE SEGUE INTO A RONALD REAGAN.
IF TRUTH BE TOLD, I PASSED OUT. THE REST IS A BLUR.
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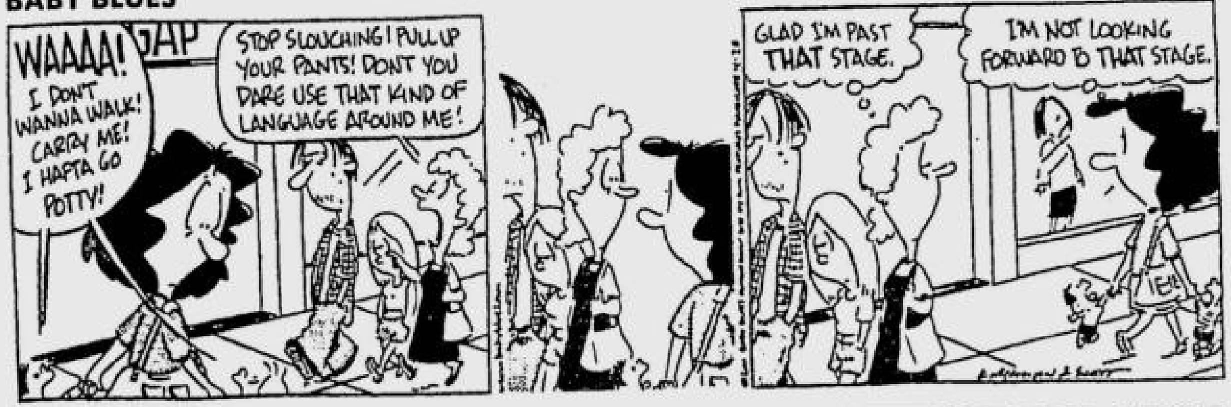
BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAA! I DON'T WANNA WALK! CARRY ME! I HAFTA GO POTTY!
GAP
STOP SLOUCHING! PULL UP YOUR PANTS! DON'T YOU DARE USE THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE AROUND ME!
GLAD I'M PAST THAT STAGE.
I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT STAGE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Malcolm X, Grace Jones, Jim Lehrer, Peter Townshend, Nora Ephron, Bill Laimbeer

Happy Birthday: Start moving, and don't look back until you have reached your destination. You are in a high cycle, so pull out all the stops and move into fast-forward. You have choices that can lead you in many different directions. Be selective and move toward the path that will bring the highest returns. Your numbers: 5, 13, 17, 24, 28, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your argumentative mood lead to temper tantrums. You'll find yourself all alone if you try to push your beliefs and attitudes on others. It's time you took a look at yourself. Check out your motives.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talk can cause trouble if you aren't completely honest. Don't lead people on or try to cover up for someone who has been deceptive or underhanded with others. Someone may be using you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Voice your opinions, and you'll be surprised at how many followers you have. Your intellectual know-how will enable you to start the ball rolling. You'll be admired for your insight and fortitude.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you take on too much, you'll find yourself in a martyr's position. Don't let your family push you into doing things that you really don't want any part of.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out and cut loose. You'll have some creative ideas that you can put to the test by exposing them to your peers. Lady Luck is in your corner. Put some effort into self-improvement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be so nosy. You'll be stuck taking on other people's responsibilities if you try to tell them how to do things. You are better off spending some time with the one you love

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your intuition to help you make all the right choices. Sudden changes will turn out much better than you first thought possible. Go with the flow, and you won't be sorry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put in some extra time at work. You'll be surprised at how much you can get done when no one is around. Your dedication will win points and put you into a position leading to advancement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time to join in and get active. Sports events or energetic activities with children will be rewarding. Take advantage of opportunities to travel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your efforts into home-improvement projects. You can raise the value of your home if you're willing to spend a little cash. Real estate deals will be prosperous and plentiful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to get out with friends. New partnerships can be formed if you are receptive to advances. Explore new avenues. You'll be surprised by the possibilities.

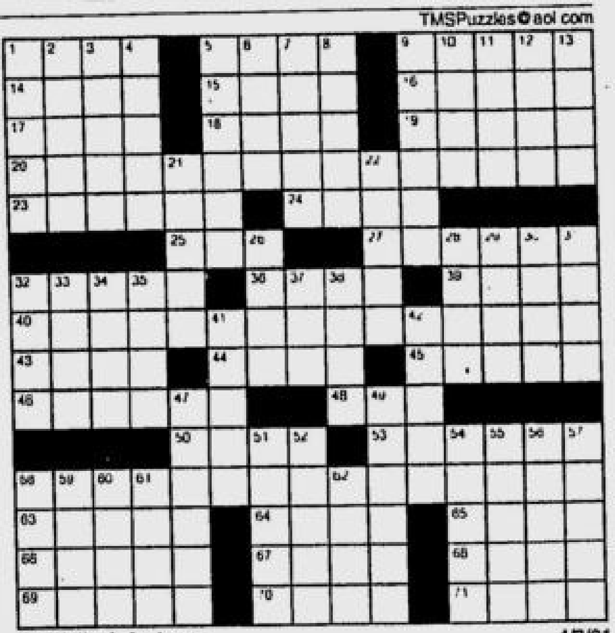
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to keep busy. Frustrations will surface if you've overspent, leaving yourself short for the weekend. Try to focus on interesting new ways to make a little extra cash.

Birthday Baby: You are so charming. You know how to get others to do things for you and are quick to pick up on any opportunity that comes along. You aren't one to sit around waiting for others. You are motivated and responsive.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Gator's kin
5 Expands a pit
9 Funeral piece
14 British Open winner Tony
15 Light tan
16 To no __
17 Prayer wind-up
18 Bandy and Howard
19 Polish spots
20 Really taking a chance
23 Lets live
24 Social climber
25 Gumshoe
27 Hold in esteem
32 Bewildered
36 City on the Truckee
39 French girlfriend
40 Really taking a chance
43 Therefore: Lat.
44 Hind part
45 Loads cargo
46 More tightly packed
48 Auto economy fig.
50 Whoppers
53 Second showing
58 Really taking a chance
63 For all to hear
64 Seed protector
65 Ecclesiastical court
66 Unchallenged
67 Mrs. Copperfield
68 Dilatory
69 Highway subdivisions
70 Gush forth
71 Jug handles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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

4/3/01

DOWN
1 Talons
2 Make new charts
3 Last Greek letter
4 Chairmaker
5 Point of extinction
6 Screen image
7 Maddox and Norman
8 Saint James or Sarandon
9 Vienna's river
10 Terrible ruler?
11 Surprise attack
12 Four fluid ounces
13 Ultimatum word
21 Mark sale items
22 Element number five
26 Motley __
28 Joyous celebration
29 Surrounded by
30 Coating of ice
31 Labor leader Eugene
32 Elderly
33 Ripped
34 Indication
35 Son of Seth
37 Zeta follower
38 Statistical average
41 Senator Hatch
42 Heroic Horatio
47 Slurs over
49 Undergraduate course
51 Zounds!
52 Razor sharpener
54 Diagram, as a sentence
55 "__ Gay"
56 Thespian
57 Defrosts
58 Fertility god
59 Scat singer Fitzgerald
60 "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" feature
61 Melody
62 Increase staff

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	S	H		S	L	E	E	T		C	O	N	E
A	C	H	E		T	A	B	L	E		H	A	I	R
B	R	E	R	R	A	B	B	I	T		E	T	N	A
S	E	A		O	L	E	S		R	A	S	H	E	S
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E	S	A	U		D	O	N	A	L	D	D	U	C	K
L	E	S	S		A	N	D	R	E		A	N	N	E
T	E	T	E		D	O	S	E	S		S	T	E	W

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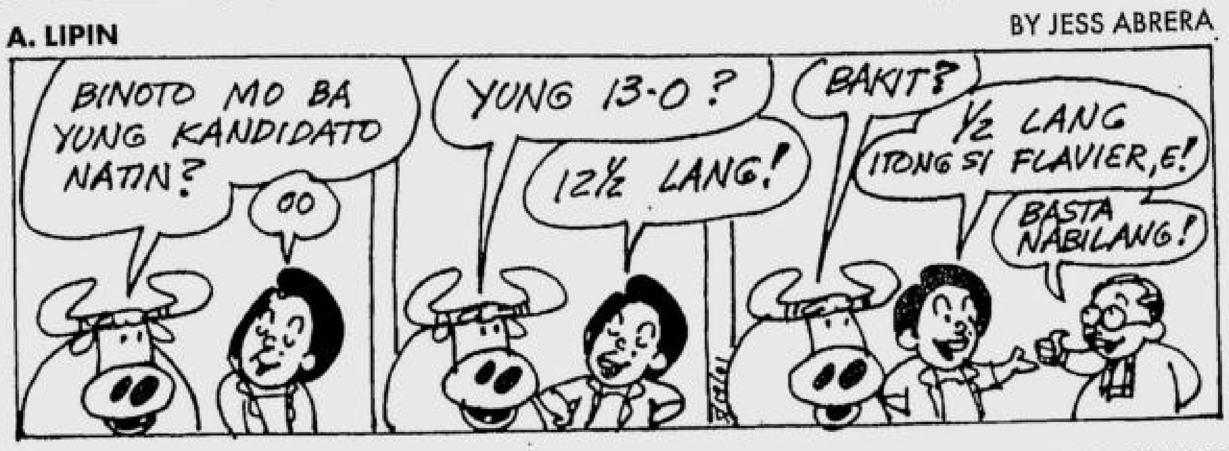
4/3/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

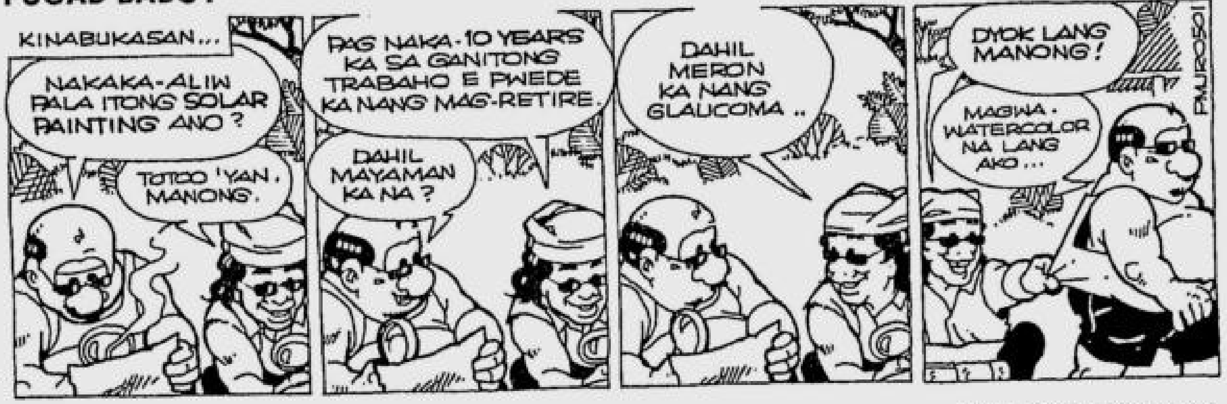
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BINOTO MO BA YUNG KANDIDATO NATIN?
OO
YUNG 13-0 ?
12½ LANG!
BAKIT?
½ LANG ITONG SI FLAVIER, E!
BASTA NABILANG!

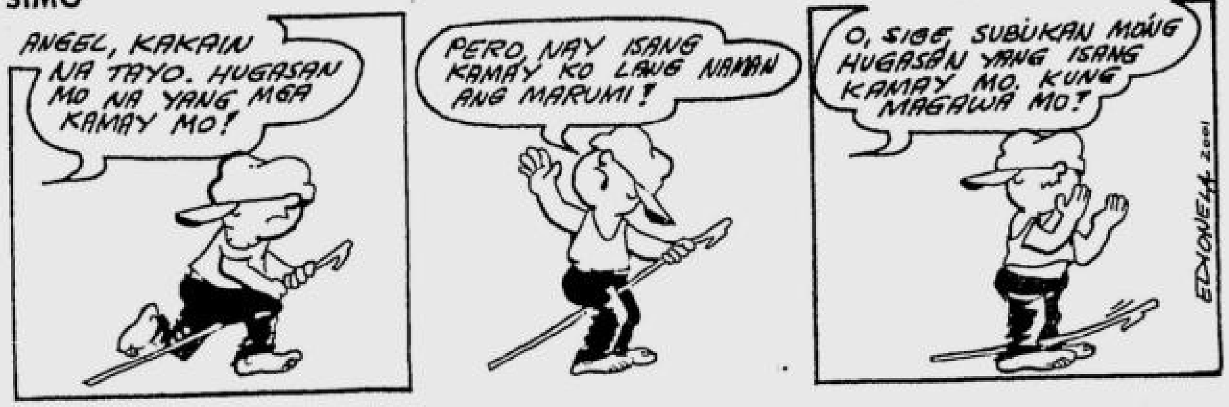
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KINABUKASAN...
NAKAKA-ALIW PALA ITONG SOLAR PAINTING ANO ?
TOTOO 'YAN, MANONG.
PAG NAKA-10 YEARS KA SA GANITONG TRABAHO E PWEDE KA NANG MAG-RETIRE.
DAHIL MAYAMAN KA NA ?
DAHIL MERON KA NANG GLAUCOMA ..
DYOK LANG MANONG!
MAGWA-WATERCOLOR NA LANG AKO ...
PMJROSO1

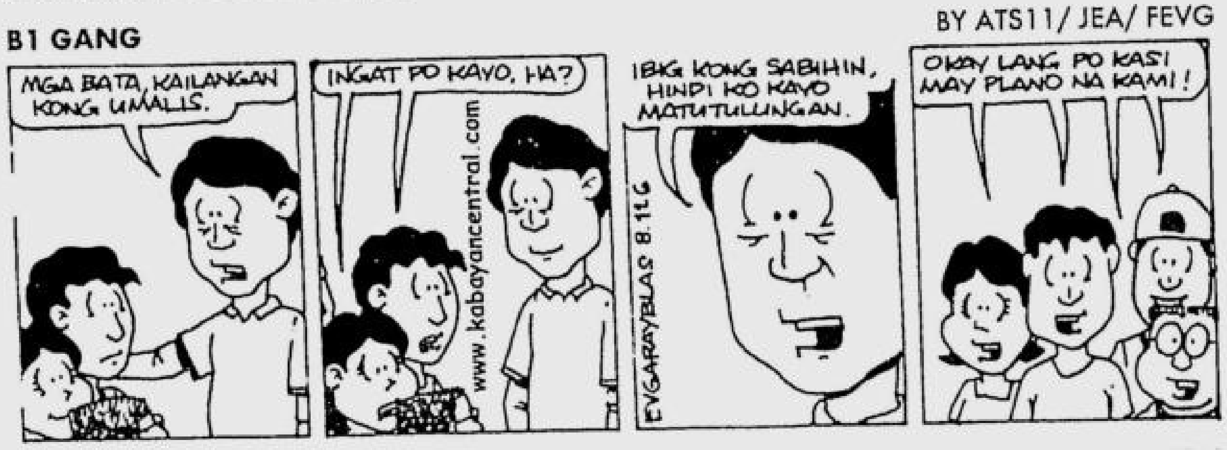
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, KAKAIN NA TAYO. HUGASAN MO NA YANG MGA KAMAY MO!
PERO NAY ISANG KAMAY KO LANG NAMAN ANG MARUMI!
O, SIGE, SUBUKAN MONG HUGASAN YANG ISANG KAMAY MO, KUNG MAGAWA MO!
EDIONELA 2001

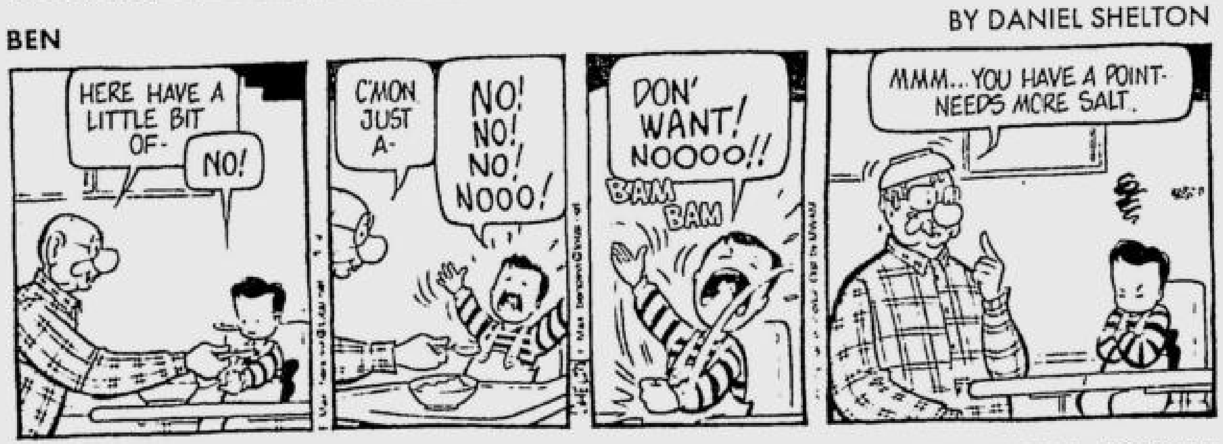
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MGA BATA, KAILANGAN KONG UMALIS.
INGAT PO KAYO, HA?
www.kabayancentral.com
IBIG KONG SABIHIN, HINDI KO KAYO MATUTULUNGAN.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.11.G
OKAY LANG PO KASI MAY PLANO NA KAMI!

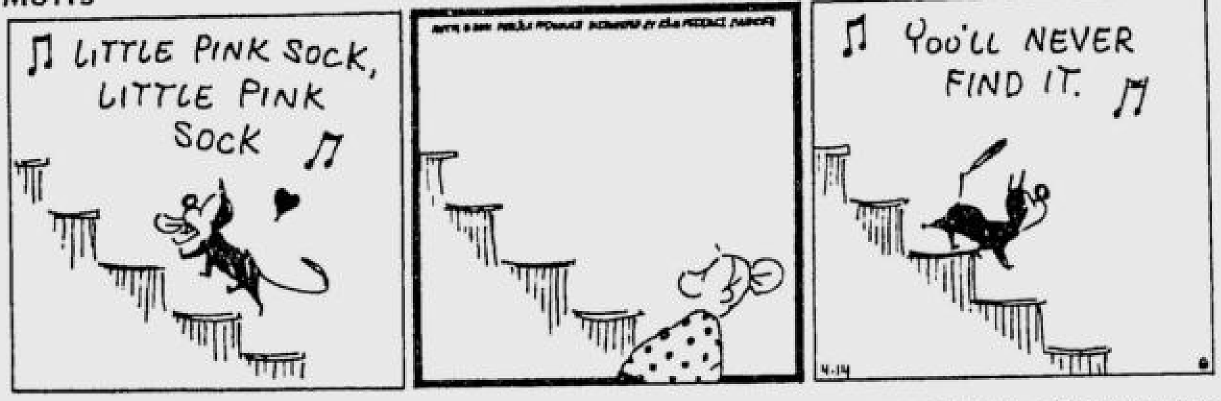
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF-
NO!
C'MON JUST A-
NO! NO! NO! NOOO!
DON' WANT! NOOOO!!
BAM
BAM
MMM... YOU HAVE A POINT-NEEDS MORE SALT.

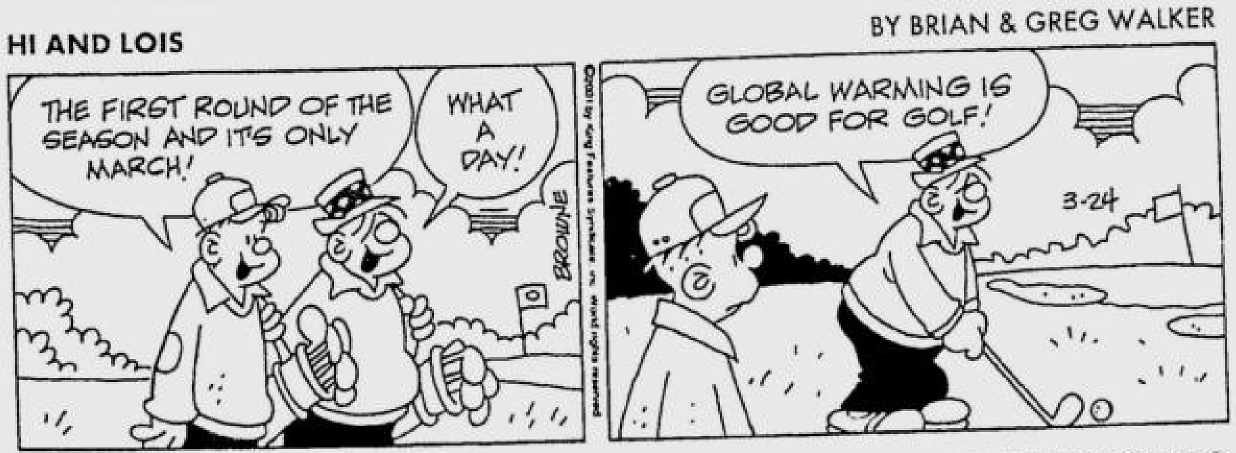
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK, LITTLE PINK SOCK ♫
♫ YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT. ♫
4-14

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THE FIRST ROUND OF THE SEASON AND IT'S ONLY MARCH!
WHAT A DAY!
BROWNE
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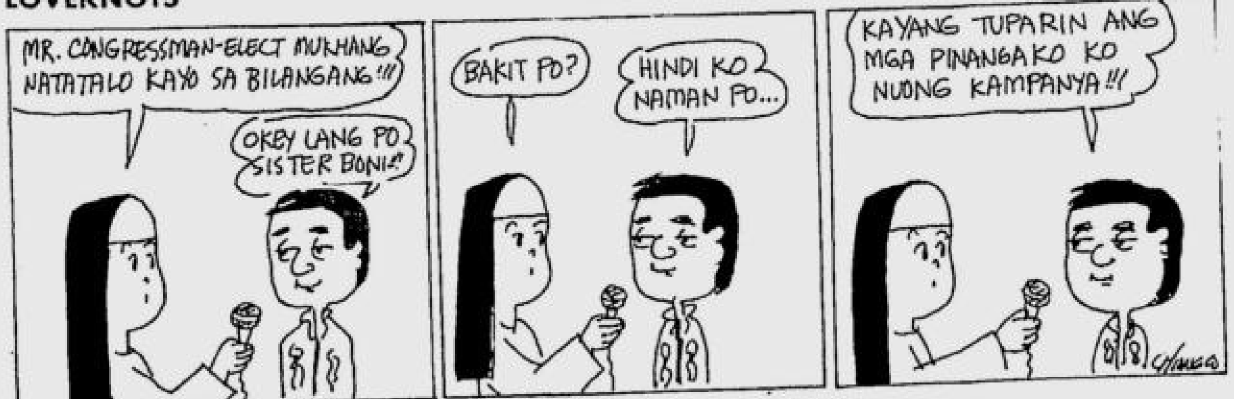
GLOBAL WARMING IS GOOD FOR GOLF!
3-24

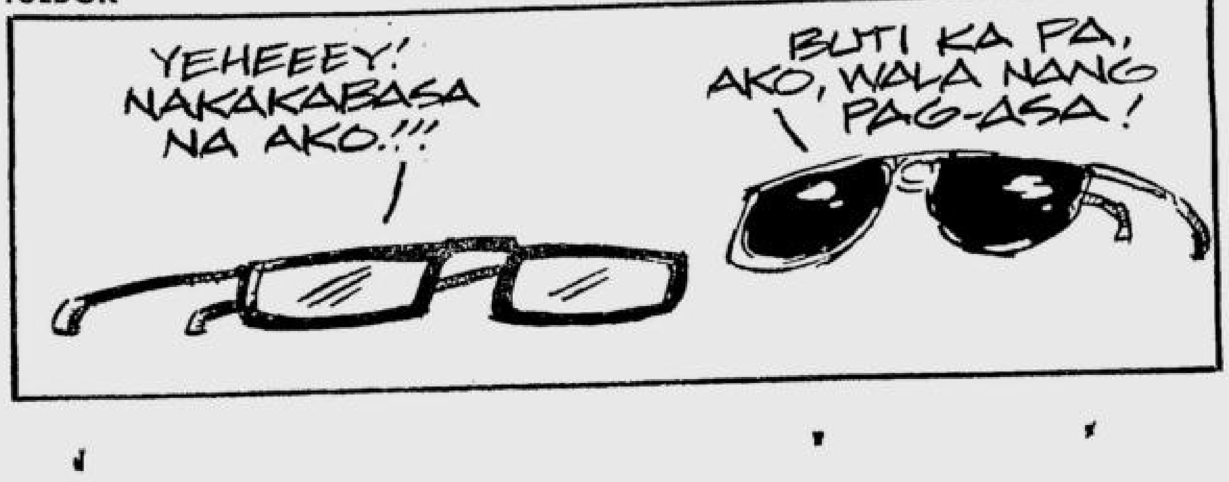
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. CONGRESSMAN-ELECT MUKHANG NATATALO KAYO SA BILANGANG!!!
OKBY LANG PO SISTER BONI!
BAKIT PO?
HINDI KO NAMAN PO...
KAYANG TUPARIN ANG MGA PINANGAKO KO NUONG KAMPANYA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


YEHEEEY! NAKAKABASA NA AKO.!!!
BUTI KA PA, AKO, WALA NANG PAG-ASA!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 19 - 25

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *2001 Screen Actors Guild Awards* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST *My Fellow Americans* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents *To Wong Foo* 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Carnie Wilson* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Greg Kinnear* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Ebona ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Off the Record	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Storm* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Die Hard 3* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Multiplicity* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies 12:00 MYX	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 The True Hollywood Political Special *Hollywood and the Kennedys* 8:00 Cromwell 10:30 E! Coming Attractions 11:00 The Best of 60 minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11.00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11.00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7.00 Que Horror 8.00 The Big Night *Junior* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:00 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Mile High City* 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Mission X 12.00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9.00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Legendary Street Fighter* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6.00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12.00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Pulso at Damdamin ng Bayan	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7.30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Carol Alt* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Melissa Joan Heart* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7.30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9.00 Kabalikat 10:30 Headlines 11.00 Isyu 101 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 DragonBall Z 7.30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 PBA Moments	7:00 Survivor 1 8:00 Survivor 2 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *The Amazon* 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 *VH-1 Music Awards* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Halle Barry* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Mystic Knights 8:00 Digimon 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 By Request *Westlife Part 4* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Dharma and Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Regine & Jaya Part II*	5:00 PBA 10:00 Gags Must be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *The Runway* 12:00 Talk Soup

ALLEN

Woody Allen sues former producer

NEW YORK—Woody Allen, the Oscar-winning American comic and filmmaker, has sued former friend and producer Jean Doumanian, charging that she cheated him out of profits from the last eight movies they made together.

Earnings

Allen said in papers filed in a New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan that Doumanian and her production company have refused to give him regular and accurate financial information about his films' earnings.

Doumanian heads Sweetland Films, which financed the eight movies. Only the production agreement for their first three movies, dated Aug. 1, 1993, is in writing, court papers say. Agreements for the five others were oral and based on the contract for the first three, court papers say.

The movies are "Bullets Over Broadway," "Mighty Aphrodite," "Everyone Says I Love You," "Deconstructing Harry," "Wild Man Blues," "Celebrity," "Sweet and Lowdown," and "Small Time Crooks."

The agreements call for Allen's company, Moses Productions Inc., to be paid half of the "adjusted gross proceeds" that Sweetland gets from the distribution or other exploitation of the films.

Business ties

Allen's court papers say that because Doumanian, with whom he cut business ties in March 2000 to sign with DreamWorks SKG, has given him and his company no financial information, he is unsure how much she owes him.

Dan Klores, Doumanian's spokesman, said the allegations are false and the case has upset her client.

"Jean is saddened that her longtime friend has chosen this course," Klores said. ". . . She looks forward to demonstrating to the court that Woody Allen has been paid everything he is entitled to."

The lawsuit also names Sweetland and Jacqui Safra, Doumanian's longtime companion, as defendants. Court papers say Safra helps Doumanian run her various businesses and received executive producer credit in Allen's movies under the pseudonym "J.E. Beaucaire."

Allen's lawyer, Michael P. Zweig, refused to talk about the lawsuit. *AP*

Confessions of a line producer

(From page F5)

ideas! We are a good team because I still count the bullets in an action scene. If a goon keeps on running after more than 20 bullets, I will beg, "*Puwede ba, patayin na 'yan!*"

Cesar Montano, as a director, finally decided to include a love scene in "Mananabas." He has two leading ladies in this movie: Jopay Salcedo, a beauty queen newly signed by Maverick Films. Her real name is Josephine Canonizado and she was in Mutya ng Pilipinas 2000. The other one is Nicole Hofer, also a beauty queen and one of the finalists in Binibining Pilipinas 2000.

The love scene with Jopay was scheduled at the residence of Rolly Esguerra, a friend of Cesar. It was supposed to be in a jacuzzi. "It will reformat all the love scenes," Cesar said with a smile. But the jacuzzi of the Esguerra residence could not be used that night, so no reformatted love scene. Besides, Sunshine, who was on the set that night, raised her eyebrows up to *there*.

Finally, *Direk* Buboy rescheduled this love scene. We warned Pidiong, our legman, to keep this confidential. In fact we even sent out some information so our spy on the set could not make his phone calls that would disrupt this scene again. When it was finally shot at one of the Sacramento resort bedrooms, Jopay Salcedo kept giggling so the simple love scene took the whole night and early morning to do.

Love scene

The other love scene with Nicole Hofer (as Cesar's wife) was quite tame. Perhaps just as well. In our last picture, "Hostage," of Star Cinema, it was my bright idea to have a love scene between Cesar and Kristine Hermosa. Talent Center got mad after the parents of Kristine complained. That scene ended up on the cutting floor.

As an actor, Cesar tries to avoid love scenes and because that last one in "Hostage" became a fiasco, I tried to keep quiet when they were discussing this love scene. But Cesar said just to wait and see as he was writing a new twist to this love scene.

The other significant scene this week was the beheading of Mandy Ochoa as Major Paterno. Mandy came to the set on Thursday but he was not able to shoot. We were shooting up to morning and he told us that he had to leave at 10 a.m. So we shot around him. But the next evening he was there and was able to shoot up to 6 a.m. Mandy came with his fianceé, a lovely girl from Bacolod City who belongs to the Jison-Varela clan. They are getting married on June 22. Mandy told me that he will be settling down in Bacolod after the wedding but will still be available for film projects in Manila.

The beheading took two nights to execute. We had about 50 soldiers as extras this time. The barracks were built only two days ago. The scene was where the "Mananabas" would descend on the soldiers from the rooftops, gliding through the night and jumping through the walls of the barracks. For this scene we had to use cables, courtesy of Philip Co. The cables looked like invisible wires at night. But the "Mananabas" would glide through this using an invisible harness. Still, some got hurt in the process. The lighting and the camerawork of our cinematographer, Richard Padernal, made this a sight to behold.

Reliable staff

We are lucky to have a good staff working with us in "Mananabas." Our assistant director Pepito Diaz is a reliable AD. He works quietly with Cesar and Richard Padernal in all their difficult scenes. Our PM is Rene Matias, who is a veteran at this line of work. He is a prosperous farmer when he is not doing movies and we were lucky to get him right after harvest time.

Production designer Ben Payumo is another veteran. He is the favorite of the King and he was touched when Ronnie Poe asked him to be one of the *ninongs* when he and Susan Roces celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Our continuity girl, Nelia Villaflores, has worked on several American films done here and abroad. Just like the American producers, we are amazed at her attention to details. We have worked with some bad eggs in the industry. So when we get the chance to work with a nice group like the one we have now, we really thank our lucky stars.

For two days this week, we shot the scenes in a tribal village set done by Ben and Allan Sanchez. The "village" was composed of 10 huts with a center area for a village get-together. It was here where our set designers put up the set for a wedding feast.

The bride was played by Mina Bernales, a stage actress and film dubber. She was the native bride who fell in love with a soldier. The groom-soldier was Richard Merk. An old man from the village played the bride's father who died during the wedding ceremony. Since the old man was doing a movie for the first time in his life, Cesar was having a tough time directing him. But he insisted that the old man's face was right for the role, so he tried harder. In the end, his efforts paid off, and the old man "died" cinematically.

Big boulders

The "village" was at the end of Daranak Falls. One had to navigate big boulders to get to the location site. On the second day, we shot the rape and carnage of the village people. The bride's brother, played by RJ Leyran, went out to the "*palikuran*" and only his head came back rolling on the table. Silently, the "Mananabas" had come in the darkness.

This was a day scene and it was a wrap at 6 p.m. On to the second location of the day which will roll at 8 p.m. ***(Next Week: The director goes AWOL.)***

"MANANABAS." Seven pairs of red contact lenses were needed for Cesar Montano and his fellow-marauders.

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'Series 7' brings 'reality TV' to the movie screen

By Christy Lemire

GLENN Fitzgerald stars as Jeff in USA Films' "Series 7." AP

NEW YORK — In the United States nowadays, you can stay home just about every night and watch some form of reality television: the guilty pleasure "Survivor," the contemptible "Temptation Island," the old-school "Cops" or, my personal favorite, "When Good Pets Go Bad."

Or you can get off the couch and watch the same thing on the big screen in "Series 7," which would be a satire if it weren't so dead-on.

Amusing

"Series 7" feels so real, it's not even funny. Granted, it's amusing with its urgent, breathless voiceovers, quick edits and blaring full-screen graphics. Like another reality show, "The Real World," regular people look into the camera and spill the most intimate details of their lives. And because we're all voyeurs deep down, we watch, hanging on to every insipid word.

But "Series 7" takes the genre to a bloodier, more violent level. This is the story of six people, picked to kill each other, in a show called "The Contenders." Each contestant gets a gun and a cameraman; the person left standing wins.

The reigning champion is Dawn (Brooke Smith, who survived the pit in "The Silence of The Lambs" by using Precious the poodle as bait). She's single and eight months' pregnant, and all she has to do to be free of the show for good is win the seventh round.

Challengers

Challenging Dawn: Connie (Marylouise Burke), a religious emergency room nurse; Tony (Michael Kaycheck), a husband and father who removes asbestos for a living; Franklin (Richard Venture), an elderly trailer dweller; Lindsay (Merritt Wever), a suburban teen whose parents drive her around to hunt her enemies; and Jeff (Glenn Fitzgerald), an artist who's dying of testicular cancer.

We get a glimpse of each competitor's home life: Tony playing in the backyard with his kids, Jeff dancing with his wife on their wedding video.

A connection between Dawn and Jeff is revealed, and as the number of players dwindles and the film reaches a climax, it's admittedly as compelling as the final episode of last season's "Survivor." Who will win? Tune in next time and find out!

Writer-director Daniel Minahan has said he watched hours of reality TV shows to prepare for this movie.

"At a certain point, I became really obsessed by them and couldn't stop watching," he said.

Attention to detail

And it shows. His attention to detail is impeccable, and his use of no-name actors adds to the film's authenticity.

But what is Minahan trying to say? That reality TV is bad? That it's a violent, mind-numbing waste of time?

Well, duh.

The film "15 Minutes," in which two immigrants seek fame by going on a killing spree, similarly indicts television for making real people stars for doing horrible deeds.

If Minahan is just trying to entertain, he's achieved his goal, but only in the same basic way as the TV shows he imitates.

"Series 7," a USA Films release, runs 85 minutes. *AP*

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Philip Kaufman makes movies for thinking, feeling adults

By Noelani Torre

FORTUNE has treated Philip Kaufman strangely. And so has Hollywood. This very talented individual, whose films have been called "the best of their kind" and "the best American films I have seen in 20 years," had been out of a job for seven years!

Well, that's not entirely true. He had been working on several projects in the past seven years, such as film adaptations of Caleb Carr's "The Alienist" and John Grisham's "The Runaway Jury," but not one of these came to fruition. Luckily, along came playwright Dough Wright and "Quills."

Wickedly funny

Yes, Kaufman is the director of that much-praised film. "Quills" is described as "wickedly funny, blasphemous, very sexy, very tender, very frightening, mischievous, subversive and liberating, best-picture material" by critics and it's raking in cash, too. Kaufman is definitely the flavor of the year. What has made him the exceptional filmmaker he is today?

Philip Kaufman, grandson of German-Jewish immigrants, was born on October 23, 1936, in Chicago. He grew up there and graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in history.

He went on to Harvard Law School but gave it up after a year when he returned to the University of Chicago for postgraduate work in history. Unlike fellow director Steven Spielberg, who had known since childhood that he would be a filmmaker, the idea had not entered Kaufman's head.

In 1960, married and a new father, he and his family relocated to San Francisco where he started writing a novel. After some time they travelled to Europe, where he supported his family by teaching in American schools, though not at the expense of his writing.

There, Kaufman became enthralled by European films, filmmaking and filmmakers—the vibrant French New Wave and the New Italian Cinema. It was then that he decided to become a filmmaker.

Scenario

In 1962, Kaufman returned to Chicago where he met Anais Nin at the University. He talked to her for hours, telling her the scenario of a film he was contemplating, and Nin advised him to pursue filmmaking. And that's what he did.

KAUFMAN. Exceptional filmmaker.

Unfinished novel

He imbibed all the movie techniques that he could and, in 1963, with $50,000 in contributions from family and friends, he turned the unfinished novel he had been writing into his first film, "Goldstein."

He co-directed, co-wrote and coproduced this movie with good friend Benjamin Manaster, a "mystical-satirical" tale of an Old Testament sort of prophet who "rides out of Lake Michigan and interacts with a motely crew of crooks, hipsters and artists in Chicago."

"Goldstein" won the Prix de la Nouvelle Critique (an award he shared with Bertolucci's "Before the Revolution") in the 1964 Cannes Film Festival. It film didn't create any waves in the US, however, despite Jean Renoir's raves.

In 1965 Kaufman wrote and directed "Frank's Greatest Adventure," what he called "a pop art movie," starring Jon Voight. Shown at Cannes in 1967, it was largely ignored on both sides of the Atlantic and it wasn't distributed in America until 1969 (where it was retitled "Fearless Frank.")

Under contract

Kaufman went to Hollywood two years later, where he was under contract to Universal. The studio backed his next film, "The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid," which he wrote and directed in 1971.

(To be concluded)

Starring Robert Duvall and Cliff

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Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
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May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI repres tative will be present at each draw
- The amoun won will be credited to the winner account within seven (7) working d ys after the draw date.

5. For the Gran Draw, the following shall apply:
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   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
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   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
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   - BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
   - BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
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Ano sa palagay ninyo?

Junior Inquirer

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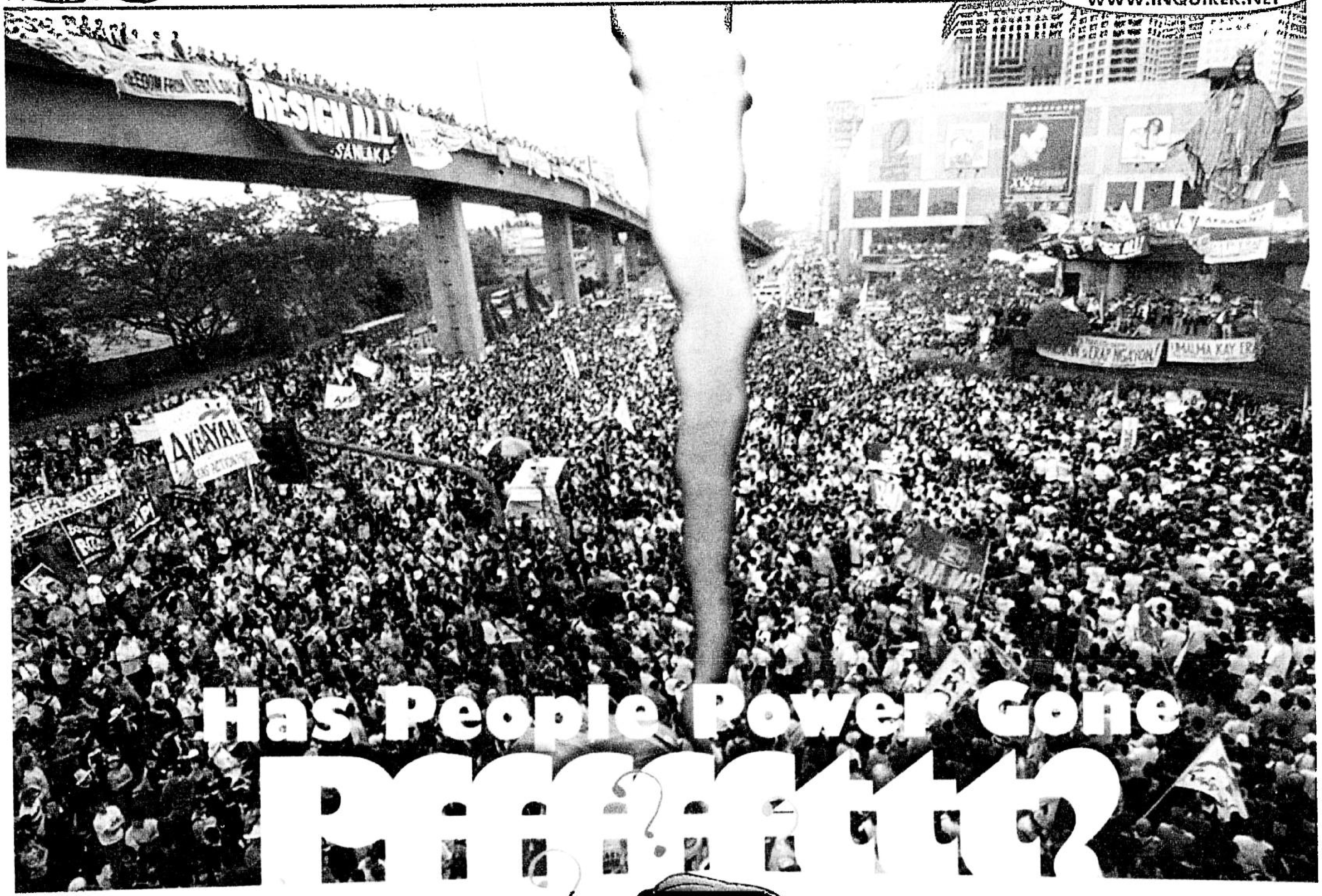


Has People Power Gone Pffffttt?

INTERVIEWS BY NIÑA ALIPIO, JEIFLYN DIZON, DIYOSA ESPINA, NICO MIGUEL GARCIA, ANTOINETTE JADAONE, YORADYL LEOBRERA, AMIEL OCHONA, XIOMARA QUIÑONES, AND STANLY GALO SY

IT must have looked really weird. In January, it seemed like everyone was partying after President Estrada was removed from office. Then, a few months later, what some people have called "Edsa 3" comes along and things don't look quite like they used to be. The JI Snoopers went around the city to find out how kids felt about what happened a couple of weeks ago and if, despite everything, they could still believe in the spirit of Edsa and People Power.

"Yup! I believe in the spirit of Edsa because people joined together there and met new friends. Although, (in Edsa 3, it was) not in a nice manner."

—***Robert Dela Peña,*** *11, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Quezon City*

"I stayed at home for safety during Edsa Revolutions 2 and 3. I felt sad for those who were hurt. No, I don't believe in the spirit of Edsa anymore. The rally was supposed to be peaceful. but. . ."

—***Eunice Laput***, *10, Gemille School, Parañaque*

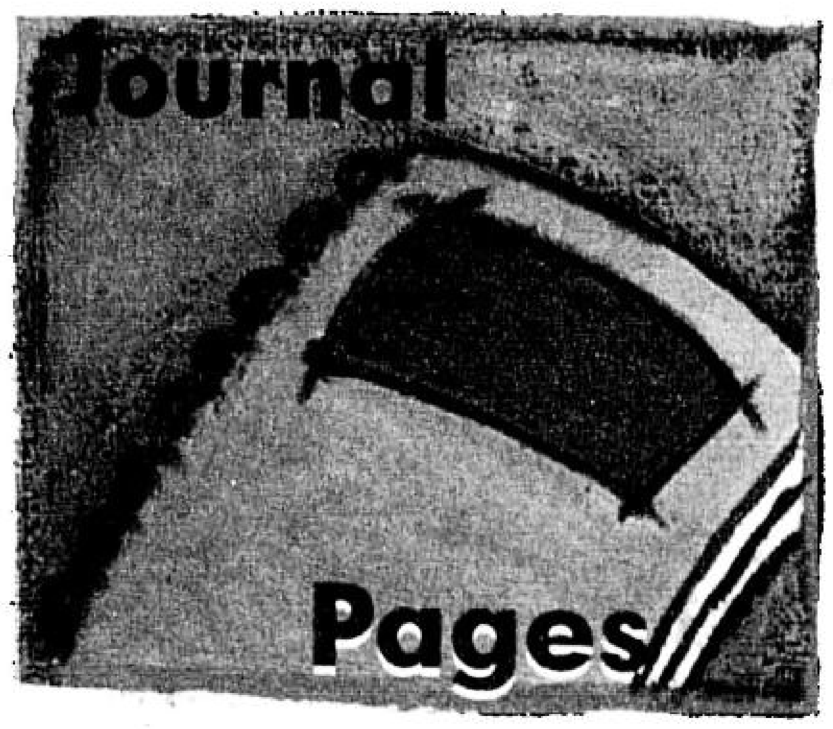
"I believe in the spirit of People Power but I think it disappeared. Edsa 1 and 2 were peaceful but Edsa 3, no way! They shouldn't call it Edsa 3, it should be like World War 4!"

—***Nico Garcia***, *10, Paref Southbridge, Muntinlupa*

"I think that people should be able to express their opinions but they should not be violent. I still believe in the spirit of Edsa and People Power because when we gather, we are united and, without Edsa, it seems that people don't really care about one another."

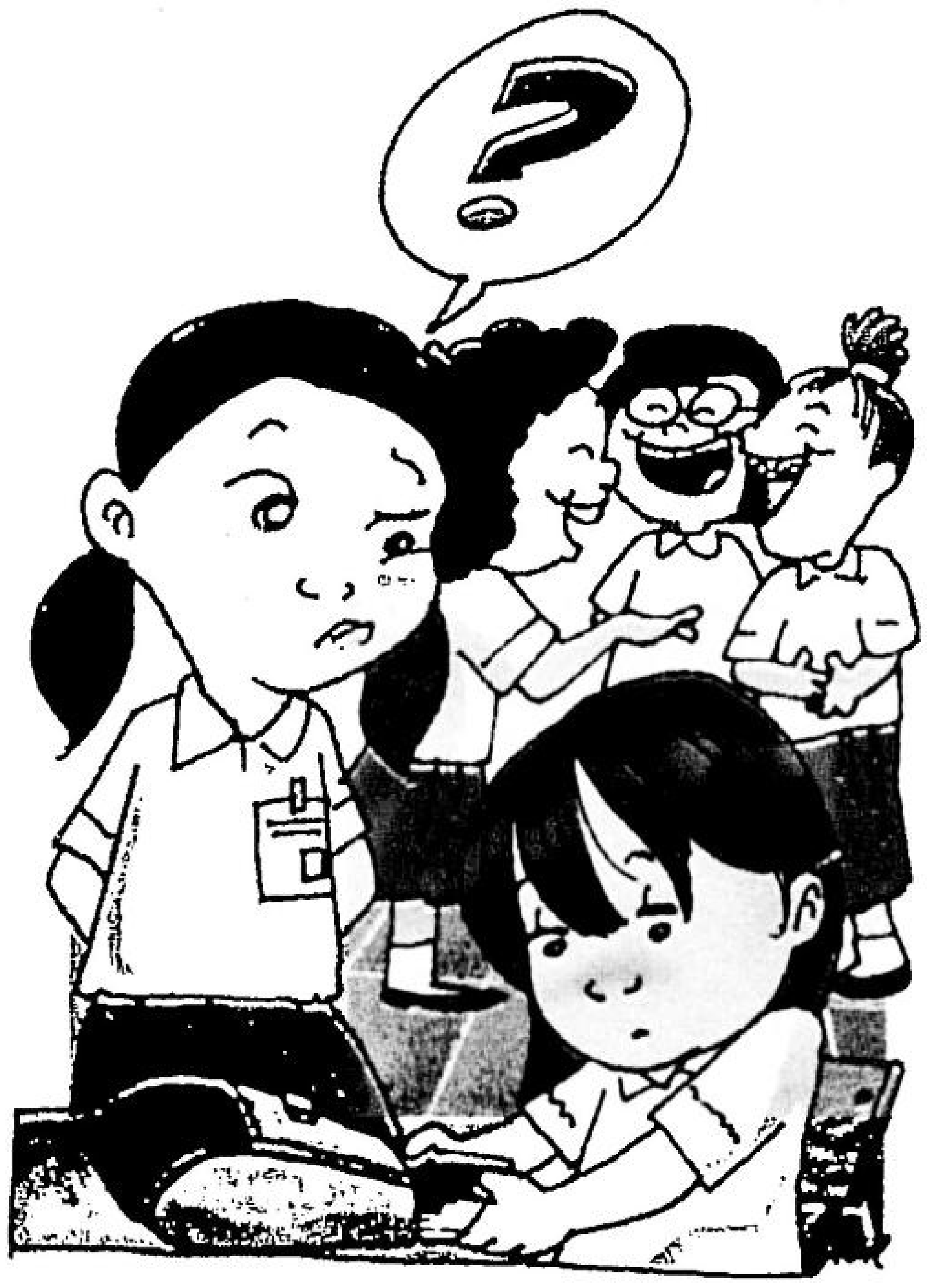
—***Tao Nono Aves***, *13, Philippine High School for the Arts, Laguna*

Has/p.8



Mary Rose's Surprise

By Mita Veloso
Miriam College Grade School



MARY ROSE was my Grade 2 classmate. She was always very quiet and would whisper instead of talking. I felt sorry for her, and I knew something had to be done.

One day, I told my mommy about her. She told me that I could be able to help her talk. She gave me a chocolate bar to give to Mary Rose.

The very next day, I gave her the chocolate, but she still did not say anything. She just gave me a friendly little smile.

At dismissal, I noticed that she had some trouble fixing her school bag and so, I helped her. But it turned out just the same: I did not hear her voice.

On my First Holy Communion, I found out from Mary Rose's mother that the reason why Mary Rose wouldn't talk was because she was shy.

One day, I started giving her little notes and surprises—all she did was smile. That was enough for me. I also made it a habit to help her fix her bag at times when she needed my help. I guess we had become good friends.

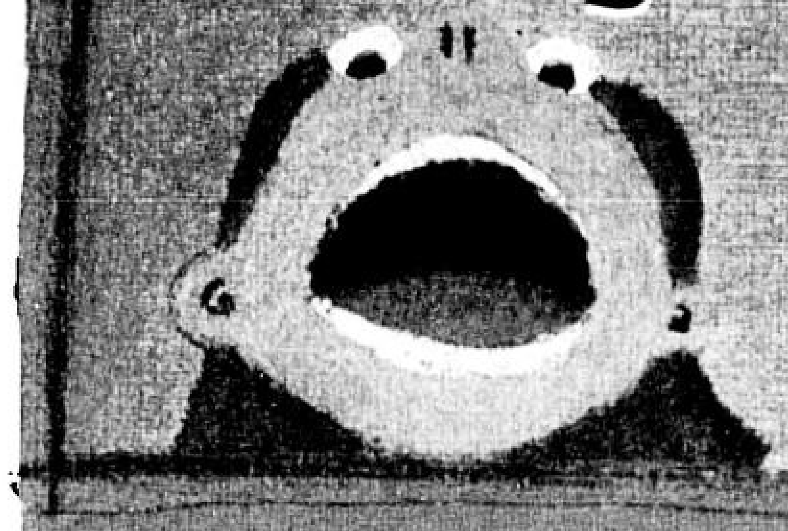
New Year 1999 was near but Mary Rose was just too shy to talk. No matter what our teachers asked, said or did, Mary Rose said nothing.

Jan. 4, 1999 had arrived. It was our first day in the fourth quarter. No one heard her voice.

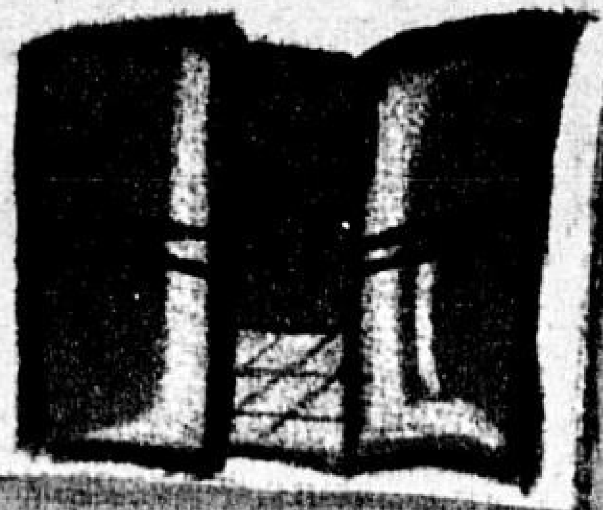
Later, on Feb. 24, dismissal time, I couldn't believe my ears! Mary Rose talked! We finally heard Mary Rose's voice! I really felt so happy. This day meant so much to me. I hope that I shall never forget it.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Unfair to Poveda

DEAR Editor,

I was bothered by the article of the dyslexic girl you featured in the March 24 issue of the JUNIOR INQUIRER. As a teacher, I can understand her anxieties, frustrations, disappointments, and also the peace and joy she may now be experiencing at her present school environment.

However, I cry foul when she made a sweeping statement that she was happy with her teachers at WorldLab unlike the ones at Poveda. Though it could be true for her alone, I don't think it was wise to include that statement in her article. Editing and proofreading are part of the writing process more so in publications where the clientele is nationwide.

I do not have any child or relative studying at Poveda, Rosehill or WorldLab. I do not have any friends from those schools either. But I believe that it is not fair for Poveda to receive such a criticism, publicized at that.

I look forward to Saturdays enjoying JI but this was the only time when I felt the need to comment on your issue.—**MS TECHIE LERMA-LLANTADA**, International School Manila

DEAR Ms Llantada,

*Thank you for your letter. I decided to publish Macie Mendigo's essay in full because it was not written with malice. It was a very brave piece about the bewildering hardships experienced by children with learning difficulties. I trust that all our readers, students and teachers alike, will read her essay with an open mind and an open heart. Let us respect the risk that this young writer took to speak out. Her essay was not about Poveda. It was about hope.—**The Editor***

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OUT THERE

By Margaux Ortiz

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Announcement

"EPOL/APPLE'S" NEW SEASON. Join wacky "teacher" Tito Luis, a witty hornbill named Porfirio and the rest of the Epol/Apple gang in learning the English language with a Pinoy twist starting June 5 at 8:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN's Channel 2. Epol/Apple will be shown on Tuesdays with replays Thurdays, from 8:30-9:00 a.m.

ATTENTION ALL YE BUDDING WRITERS! Adarna House is calling on all young and professional writers to submit their stories for its next batch of storybooks. Submissions do not have to follow any particular format and must be accompanied by a short write-up on the writer. You can send your entries to the Product Development Officer, Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 372-3548 or 49 or e-mail adarnahouse @ adarna.com.ph.

Contests

HEY PEN LOVERS! The PBBY Illustrator's Prize, sponsored by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY), beckons to all professional and aspiring writers. For more information about this annual nationwide contest, e-mail the Secretariat at adarnahouse@ adarna.com.ph

Workshops

ONCE UPON A TIME. Filipinas Heritage Library invites kids ages 3-10 to a fun storytelling session on May 19 at 9 a.m. Art and craft-making activities are also in store for the participants. For more details, call Mae Ocampo at 892-1801.

Museo Moments

FUN GUARANTEED! Learn basic techniques in art and painting in the free art workshop sponsored by Faber Castell (please call Des at 523-1797 to 98 for inquiries) on May 25, Saturday at 2-5 p.m.

Kids ages 9 to 13 are also urged to join an educational overnight camp on May 26-27. For details call up Museo at 523-1797 to 98 or visit them at Roxas Boulevard Corner South Drive, Manila.

STORYTELLING HOUR. Museo Pambata invites everyone to one hour of storytelling fun on Fridays and Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Cable Picks

NOW SHOWING AT NGC. Meet two extraordinary dogs—a heroic rescuer and a cute show puppy—in "Petro–Search and Rescue Dog" on the National Geographic Channel on Thursday, May 24 at 9:30 p.m.

MUMMIES WEEK. Unwrap the mysteries surrounding mummification this May at the Discovery Channel. Learn about mummy "firsts," the oldest mummy in the world and the lost mummy of Imhotep on Sunday May 27 at 7 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, May 28-31 at 8 p.m.

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WORLD SCOPE

Syria luvs Pope too

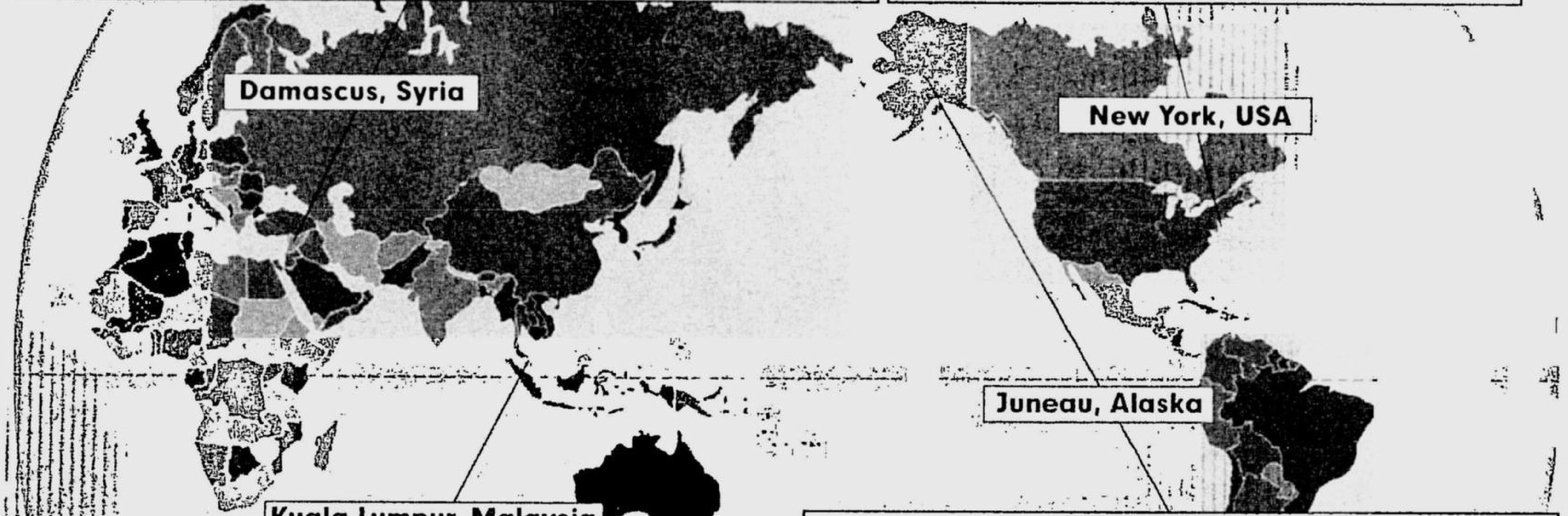
CHRISTIAN Syrian schoolchildren show a portrait of Pope John Paul II at the Damascus Christian neighborhood of Bab Sharqi.

Pope John Paul was scheduled to arrive the next day in Syria for a four-day visit.

AP

Pepe's cause

SUPERMODEL Christy Turlington and Pepe the Chihuahua were co-hosts of Animal Mukti, a fund-raiser for the Humane Society of New York that combined fashion and yoga. Yoga, according to Turlington, teaches compassion and kindness for all living creatures. *AP*



Just Kiss the Pig

WITH the entire student body of Harborview Elementary School in Juneau, Alaska watching, Principal Bob Dye kisses Nort, a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig.

The public pig-kissing was the reward for Harborview's 440 students, who read a combined 5,302 books in the past six weeks on a bet with Dye. *AP*

It's a Dino World

A VISITOR looks at the giant statue of a Tyrannosaurus Rex on display during The World Biggest Dinosaur Animatronic Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. Featuring the most advanced animatronics and sophisticated dinosaur statues, the exhibition served as a "sneak peek" to the movie "Jurassic Park 3" which is expected to be shown worldwide in July 2001. *AP*

Reaching Out

A young camp counselor learns a touching lesson from her even younger campers

BY MAJALYA FERNANDO

FOR most people, reaching out means giving money, clothes and other material things to the less fortunate and the needy. For me, though, the true meaning of reaching out is helping someone in need, extending your services or simply being there to listen and care for a person.

During the first week of April, I discovered the true meaning of reaching out. I attended a children's summer camp as a counselor and was assigned to the little girls' group. I think my group was the most unique because there were two kids from ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata project. Their names were Nica and Hara. Sure, I've been with people who lack food, education and are in need of money during our school excursions and outreach programs, but I've never been with children who have experienced abuse and lack of love.

Although Nica and Hara both experienced abuse, they had different personalities.

Hara, who is 8 years old, was brave and determined. She was not afraid to try activities that required her to be 30 feet off the ground. Most of the kids didn't want to try the activity, but Hara did it with a smile on her face. She was able to finish the 8-km hike up Taal Volcano without any complaint at all. She chose to continue even after the other kids backed out.

Six-year-old Nica, on the other hand, was more of the shy type. She was able to make friends, but most of the time she stayed with Hara. Nica was afraid to go up 30 feet, but when it came to talent night, she was very confident. She was able to dance well in front of a crowd.

At first, I thought it would be difficult for me to reach out to Nica and Hara. I thought they would need help getting along with the other members of the group. It turns out, they didn't need any help except in carrying their bags.

There were times during the six days that Nica, Hara and the other girls in my group would come to me for help. Whenever I could help, I would feel good about myself. I actually had fun, and above all, I learned a lesson: that you don't have to give material things to make a person happy. By simply helping someone in need, you can make that person smile.

I don't think I will ever forget my experience that week in camp. I also don't think I will ever forget the girls in my group, especially Nica and Hara.

***Majalya**, 13, studies at Assumption College, Antipolo.*

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Ang Aking Pamilya

MGA TULA NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI LYRA A. GARCELLANO

Si Tatay

Sa tuwing darating si Tatay sa hapon
mula sa maghapong pagtatrabaho,
agad ko siyang sinasalubong upang magmano;
matapos ay sisilay ang lamukot ng tuwa sa
mga mata ni Tatay.

Sa tuwing darating si Tatay sa hapon,
manlilimahid sa grasa ang kanyang kamiseta,
kita ang malalaking ugat
sa kanyang mga braso,
at parang patang-pata ang kanyang katawan;
agad na lalamunin ng papag si Tatay.
Naaawa ako kay Tatay
kaya't ayokong maging balakid sa kanyang
pamamahinga.

Minsan may isang engkantada
na biglang sumulpot
sa aking panaginip,
Inalok niya ako ng isang bagong Tatay;
nag-oopisina at nakakurbata pa.
Hindi ko tinanggap ang Tatay na iyon.
Kailan man ay hindi ko ipagpapalit
ang aking mahal na Tatay
sa totoong buhay man at maging sa
panaginip.

Si Nanay

Idolo ko si Nanay;
mahusay siyang magluto,
pantay-pantay at magsisinlaki ang
hiwa ng rekado,
simpleng hapunan nagiging
pambihira
dahil masarap magtimpla at magluto
si Nanay,
gaano man karumi ang damit
kanyang napapaputi na kasing linis
ng langit,
lukot man ay plantsadong
maisusuot,
halaman sa bakuran ay hindi
nauubusan ng bulaklak
kaya't munting hardin sa aming
bahay
ay tila paraiso sa mata ng aming mga
kapitbahay.

Idolo ko si Nanay;
haplos niya ay mahusay na gamot sa
akin;
naaalis ang bara ng ilong,
palad na mainit-init sa likod.
Pati takot ko sa kulog at kidlat
kanyang inalis.
Nakakatulog nang mahimbing sa
gabi
dahil mga kwento ni Nanay
ay oyayi sa aking pagtulog.

Si Bunso

Nasa kalikutan si Bunso
kaya't si Nanay ay laging nakasunod.
Dahan-dahang babaybayin ni Bunso
ang gilid-gilid ng bahay at mga bangko,
kapag nakakapit na ay saka bibitaw
at sisimulang manulay.
Nakakatuwang pagmasdan si Bunso
lalo na kapag nakarating siya sa kabilang bangko
na hindi nabubuwal;
agad siyang bubuhatin ni Nanay at babatiin ng hali

At kapag hindi pa tapos sa gawaing bahay si Nanay
ako ang humahalili sa kanya.
Mahal na mahal ko si Bunso
dahil siya ang nagbibigay kulay sa aming tahanan;
nag-aalis ng pagod ni Tatay at Nanay
Sabi nga ng aming mga kapitbahay,
kahawig ko raw si Bunso.

Si Kuting

Maliit lamang siya noong
dumating sa aming bahay
kaya't pinangalanan siyang
Kuting ni Nanay;
ibig sabihin, munti o katiting.
Hindi ko nakalilimutang
pakainin si Kuting
dahil nakatira din siya
sa aming bahay
kaya't madali siyang lumaki.

Maliksi si Kuting;
laging nagpapatalun-talon
sa mga estant
gaano man kat
ay kanyang
at mahilig siya
sa amin ni Bun
habulan at kun
saan man kami
kaagad niya ka
At sa tuwing hi
ang kanyang b
kulay-araw sun
ang lamukot ng
sa kanyang tila

*Si **Genaro** ay dating patnugot sa panitikan ng Th*
ang opisyal na pamahayagang pangkampus ng P
versity. Ang ilan sa kanyang mga tula ay nalatha
Free Press at Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

FOR or By KIDS

at pasemano,
as lang bubungan
akyat
g makipaglaro
so;
minsan ay taguan;
magtago
ning nakikita
imasin
lahibong
isilay lagi
tuwa
kristal na mata.

Torch Publications,
ilippine Normal Uni-
a na sa Liwayway,

Mukha

NI MICHELLE DOMINIQUE CHUA
GUHIT NI STEPH BRAVO

Mahal ko ang aking mukha
Dahil ito ay nilikha
Ng Diyos ating Ama
Na lagi nating kasama.

Ang aking bibig
Ay kaibig-ibig
Tenga ko naman
Nagagamit kung minsan.

Ang aking ilong
Ay nakakatulong
Sa paghinga ko
At sa pagod mo.

*Si **Michelle**, 10, ay nag-aaral sa St. Scholastica's College.*

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Has People Power Gone Pfffffttt?

(from page 1)

"I went to the People Power 2 rally, joining in the chants of 'Erap Resign'. While the Edsa 3 was happening, I was just at home feeling very frustrated. I felt that it was unfair because our rally was peaceful but theirs was violent, noisy and a lot of people were injured. There were even some who died, but I still believe in the spirit of Edsa because we can achieve anything when we come together as a country."

—***Diana Aviado***, *13, JASMS Quezon City*

"During People Power 2, I went to Edsa. I even stayed overnight to show that I really wanted Erap to get out of his office. When Edsa 3 came, it made me angry as I watched the news because they were hurting the media, but I still believe in the power of Edsa 1 & 2 since they changed our government to a better one."

—***Anna Banzuela***, *11, Centro Montessori, Quezon City*

"I wanted to go to Edsa last January but my parents didn't want me to so I just watched the whole thing on TV. I just ignored Edsa 3. I felt sad for those people since I think they fought for nothing. Now, I don't believe in the spirit of Edsa nor people power anymore. Because people didn't fight for what's good for the country but what's good for themselves."

—***Joanne Mariazeta***, *13, UST High School, Manila*

"I think Edsa 3 couldn't be called that because it didn't have the true meaning of People Power, and I think the People Power spirit is already lost since it's been repeated three times too many."

—***Hannah Ty***, *13, UST High School, Manila*

"I respect what people fought for in Edsa 3, but I think they didn't have to throw rocks at each other. And, because of what happened in Edsa 3, I don't believe in the People Power spirit anymore."

—***Christine Naverrete***, *13, UST High School, Manila*

"I began to ask why the people were doing it all over again and why there were guns and stones."

—Jessica Simbe, 9, Miriam College Grade School

"People Power is fighting for what you believe in and not what someone else tells you to believe."

—Michelle Balinga, 13, Pasig Catholic College

"I don't believe in the People Power spirit anymore. I just hope that what people would fight for next is as meaningful as the first People Power."

—***Charmaine Aquino***, *13, UST High School, Manila*

"Mom and I went to Edsa to join the rallyists because we are Pro-Erap. We joined them to bring Erap to power again. The thousands of people inspired us so we stayed there every day. I do believe in the spirit of Edsa and People Power because we can join hand in hand to overthrow GMA and install the real president of the Republic who is Joseph Estrada."

—***Frenz Labagis***, *8, San Beda College, Manila*

"Edsa is just a place for rallies for me where people gather, dance and shout."

—***Bico Redublo***, *6, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong*

"I dislike Erap because he is a plunderer. Good for him to suffer in jail because instead of giving those houses to the poor, he gave them all to his mistresses. These poor people can't simply understand. I believe in the spirit of Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 but I cannot call the last rally Edsa 3 because it aims to return a thief to power. It's just a simple rally for me."

—***Dane Pio de Roda***, *9, San Beda College, Manila*

"I just watched everything on TV. I thought it was an action movie but it turned out to be real. The sound of the helicopters was so loud! It was the first time I ever heard anything like that. It was so exciting, I hope it happens again."

—***Jan Danielle delos Reyes***, *6, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong*

"During Edsa 2, I went to Edsa with my whole family and I was cheering at the top of my voice, joining the crowd as they shouted, '*Patalsikin si* Erap!" But during Edsa 3, I just stayed home because my dad told me that it was dangerous out there. I watched it on TV and I saw people with blood all over them and it was terrible. In fact, it scared me. I was so frightened that time because, as I was watching the news, I thought there was already a war, just like during Anne Frank's time. I don't want that to happen. I still believe in the spirit of Edsa. It's just that there are a lot of poor people who were misled by some greedy, powerful people. As my mom told me, I do believe that prayers resolve problems, not wars.

—***Maureen Gail Calilap***, *14, St. Paul College, Bulacan*

"(During Edsa 3) I was at home watching cartoons! I don't want to hear or see the riots and protests going on. I really hope that when big people get together, they don't have to be violent to get what they want."

—***Kim Francisco***, *9, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong*

"I was afraid. I was wondering what would happen to our country. But (I still believe that) People Power is very effective in making the government know your thoughts about their system."

—***Joaquin Quijano***, *11, St. Benedict College, Alabang*

"*Medyo nalungkot ako at medyo natuwa sa nangyari.* Pro *kasi ako eh. Nalungkot ako nung may nag-aaway na pero natuwa naman ako na ipinagtatanggol nila si Dating Pangulong* Erap.

—***Rhojie Anne Bautista***, *12, San Felipe Neri Parochial School, Mandaluyong*

"I was mad at the people because they were allowing themselves to be fooled by some selfish politicians. *Nagpapaloko sila.* During Edsa 2, I still believed in People Power, but during Edsa 3, I don't think so because some people didn't know what they were fighting for or why they were there."

—***Aimee Krystel Sanchez***, *13, St. Paul, Pasig*

"I still believe in the spirit of Edsa because the civilians are very strong."

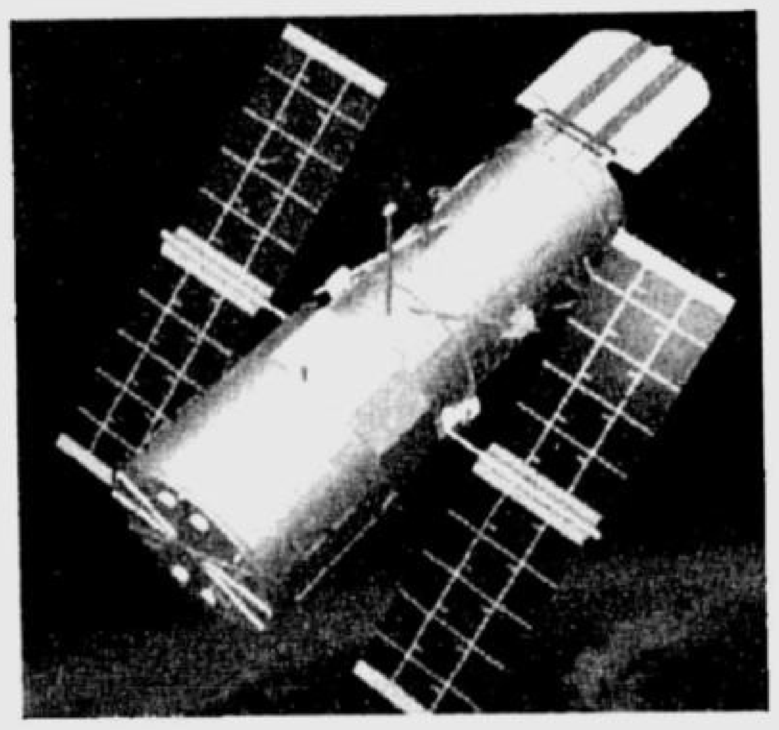
—***Charlie Ledesma***, *11, Xavier School, San Juan*

"I still believe in the spirit of Edsa because through People Power, bad presidents are ousted."

—***Stephanie Gayle Sy***, *8, Immaculate Conception Academy, San Juan*

Has/p.10

Hubble spots most-distant supernova



THE HUBBLE Space Telescope, peering 10 billion years back in time to when the universe was in its adolescence, has spotted the most distant exploding star ever observed.

Researchers said the discovery bolsters the controversial theory that mysterious "dark energy". is speeding up the expansion of the cosmos.

Invisible and poorly understood, dark energy might account for as much as two-thirds of space. Proposed a century ago by Einstein, it may counteract more familiar forces such as gravity.

Dark energy

The supernova, barely discernible with the most powerful instruments, provides clues to dark energy. While dim, the dying star gleams brighter and moves differently than it would if the universe had expanded at a steady rate since the beginning of time.

The Hubble finding is prompting researchers to rethink how the universe works.

"(Dark energy) is every bit as amazing as black holes," said University of Chicago cosmologist Michael Turner in a briefing at Nasa's Washington headquarters. "It controls the density of nature. It's the key to understanding how all of nature's particles and forces fit together."

"The discovery that the universe is speeding up will be viewed as one of the most important discoveries in all of science in the past 25 years," Turner said.

A supernova is an exploding star, a cosmic flashbulb. One occurs each second somewhere in space, and that single star beams brighter than the billions of stars in its galaxy combined.

But astronomers have to search mightily for supernovae, making the discovery of a supernova a dramatic event.

Supernova 1997ff exploded more than 10 billion light years from Earth, or 1.5 times farther than any previously recorded exploding star, when the universe was a quarter of its current age.

Only recently did the flash reach Hubble. In that way, telescopes act as time machines allowing astronomers to observe events in the early history of the universe as they are happening.

Ten billion years ago, the universe was only about 4 billion years old. Supernova 1997ff probably was a white dwarf star about the size of the sun, but extremely dense.

It sucked matter from a companion star until it reached critical mass and temperature. The carbon ignited in a runaway thermonuclear explosion of "astonishing brightness," said co-discoverer Peter Nugent of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

In 1995 and 1997, Hubble examined a tiny part of the northern Hemisphere sky. One object was visible only in the later images - meaning it was so distant its light didn't reach Earth until then. That was supernova 1997ff.

Origins

Cosmologists believe the universe probably was born in an explosion known as the Big Bang 12 billion to 15 billion years ago.

Gravity put the brakes on the immediate expansion. Then, they suspect, the universe started expanding more rapidly again 4 billion to 8 billion years ago. The reason is unclear; possibly dark energy gained the upper hand.

If astronomers were to look deep into time and space, theorists have predicted objects would appear brighter than expected because gravity was restraining galaxies from flying apart.

Sure enough, the relative brightness and motion of 1997ff might be the first tantalizing clues the theorists were right.

"This supernova shows us the universe is behaving like a driver who slows down approaching a red stoplight, then accelerates when the light turns green," said Adam Reiss of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Alternative theories suggest that dust in the universe was not as dense 10 billion years ago, making the dying star appear brighter than expected. Scientists agreed more observations are needed. ***AP***

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Has People Power Gone Pffffttt?

(from page 8)

"I am very proud to be a part of Edsa 2. I still recall the crowd happily shouting cheers and at the same time praying, but Edsa 3 scared me. I even saw the two dead policemen and many injured people who were helpless. I think Edsa is a place for good people with good intentions, not for the bad ones who keep on fighting for the wrong reason. "

—***Janine A. Simbe***, *7, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City*

"During Edsa 2, I was just playing outside when my mom told me we had to go to Edsa and join the people there. I enjoyed yelling and my mom even bought me a nice shirt with an 'Anti-Erap' picture. Edsa 3, I was watching the TV and I became curious. I began to ask why the people were doing it all over again and why there were guns and stones. My mom told me to just pray for these people so we prayed and offered a mass for them. I really do not fully understand this whole Edsa thing if it's good or bad. All I know is that it is a place where people get together for a common goal. I just hope some people know how to respect the place."

—***Jessica A. Simbe***, *9, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City*

"I really felt sad that the people in Edsa did not realize that violence and destruction of property do not lead to anything but produce hatred and more anger. I still believe in the spirit of Edsa and people power despite what happened. I think that what happened in Edsa 3 did not reflect the spirit of Edsa because people were too destructive and violent. I believe that goals can only be achieved only when people cooperate and resort to peaceful means."

—***Dustin C. Balictar***, *14, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City*

"Edsa 3 made me feel angry and feel pity for the protesters. They do not fully understand the situation of our economy. They do not listen to reason. They are blinded by some politicians and there are many, many more reasons. Freedom and democracy is what the people fought for, the spirit of Edsa. Because of the people's prayer rallies and faith in God, the people won. And for that I believe and will always believe in the spirit of Edsa."

—***Stephanie C. Ferrer***, *12, St. Joseph's College of Quezon City*

"Edsa is just a place for rallies for me where people gather, dance and shout."

— Bico Redublo, 6,

Lourdes School of Mandaluyong

"In Edsa 3, they fought for their rights too but they wanted Erap to return. That wasn't right because Erap was ousted already."

—***Isay Sarmiento***, *10, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, Marikina*

"I feel sorry for the people who didn't seem to understand what they were doing and how their riot was affecting our country. I still believe in the spirit of Edsa because it represents how strong-willed the Filipino people really are."

—***Gio Consunji***, *11, La Salle-Greenhills, San Juan*

"During Edsa 3, I was just sleeping...I still believe in People Power because we have a former president in jail."

—***Meredith Atienza***, *7, St. Scholastica's College, Manila*

"People Power should be peaceful. You shouldn't fight for your opinion in a violent way. By doing this, the whole spirit of Edsa is just blocked out."

—**Marian Bartolome**, 13, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City

"I felt frustrated (about Edsa 3) because it showed that the masses were easily manipulated by some of our politicians, but respecting others' thoughts is also my goal so I'll just let them express what they feel is also right."

—***Ryan Christopher Lu***, *14, Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City*

"Do I believe in the spirit of Edsa? I can't really, I wasn't there in the first, and I wasn't moved by the latest. But I do believe in the spirit of unity. And that's more than the wheel that sets Edsa in motion. That's why the 'Power' in People Power works."

—**JM de Joya**, 15, Xavier School, San Juan

"I felt scared, especially when people started throwing stones at each other and the soldiers were firing their guns. When I saw how big the crowd was in Edsa, I was alarmed *kasi nakita ko na hati yung* Pilipinas. *Hindi tayo* united. I also felt sad about what they did to the Edsa Shrine itself. They have the right to rally there, but they don't have the right to destroy it. I don't believe in People Power anymore. I also know some people who went to Edsa 2 because their friends were there. People Power is fighting for what you believe in and not what someone else tells you to believe."

—***Michelle Balinga***, *13, Pasig Catholic College*

Snooper Interviews Cop

JI Snooper Yoradyl Leobrera went around the Mendiola area a week after the riots and interviewed Police Inspector Resty "Toto" Camazo who came all the way from Pangasinan to defend Malacañang. Here's what he had to say, "I was with my group and was given orders to safeguard Malacañang. It was hard because we were instructed just to calm the rallyists. How could we possibly do this if we couldn't use our guns? *Pero* order *yon*. So instead of using our guns, we just covered ourselves with our shields. *Lumitaw pa kaming mga duwag* (we looked like cowards)...but it would have been inhuman to fire at these people."

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Whiz Kids 2001 - II

HERE'S the rest of the brain-busters from the 1st Quarterly Finals of the Digital LG Quiz (Sundays, 10-11 a.m., on GMA-7) ruled by Chrysanthus "Bojit" Herrera of Philippine Science High School. Are you a whiz kid yourself?

1. **Science**
   What is the largest and costliest scientific project in history?
2. **History**
   What famous hard object was the key to the deciphering of Egyptian hieroglyphics?
3. **Films**
   The 1995 Hollywood blockbuster "Apollo 13," starring Tom Hanks, was based on the book "Lost Moon" written by whom?
4. **Music**
   What is the surname of American singer-songwriter Jewel, who grew up in an Alaskan homestead and later lived in her mother's car to save on rent?
5. **Nature**
   According to recent studies, chimpanzees are apparently the only non-human animals that possess a brain structure resembling the planum temporale, a specific area in the human brain believed to control what ability?
6. **Authors**
   What American author often writes about colorful characters who face difficult personal situations in such novels as "The World According to Garp" and "The Cider House Rules"?
7. **Chemistry**
   What artificially produced crystal has the hardness of a diamond and is the only substance that can scratch a diamond, other than another diamond?
8. **Geography**
   What Tanzanian mountain is the highest peak in Africa at 5,895 meters?
9. **Astronomy**
   Give the title of the 1988 best-selling book written by British physicist Stephen Hawking about space and time.
10. **Sports and Games**
   What game, played with dice and counters, is the oldest game in recorded history?
11. **Quotations**
   What infamous lady, who was guillotined in 1793, is said to have uttered, "Let them eat cake," after being informed that the lower classes of France were starving as their supply of moldy bread was running out?
12. **Filipino First**
   Following the Battle of Manila Bay in May 1898, the first American-supervised school in the Philippines was established where?

Answers:

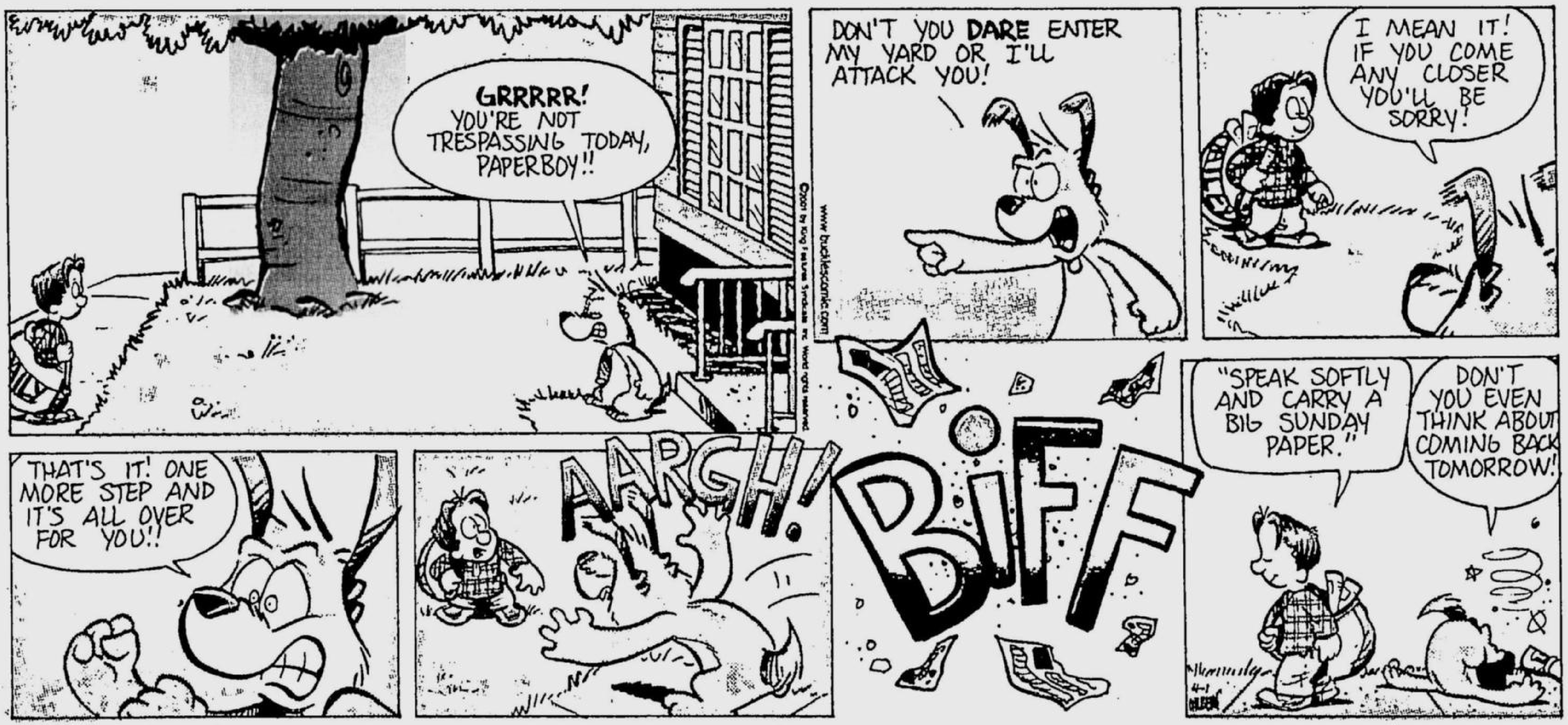
1. International Space Station
2. Rosetta Stone
3. James Lovell (commander of Apollo 13)
4. Kilcher
5. Language or communication
6. John Irving
7. Borazon
8. Mount Kilimanjaro
9. "A Brief History of Time"
10. Backgammon
11. Marie-Antionette
12. Corregidor

Ratings :

superbrain!
11 - 12
excellent!
9 - 10
good!
6 - 8

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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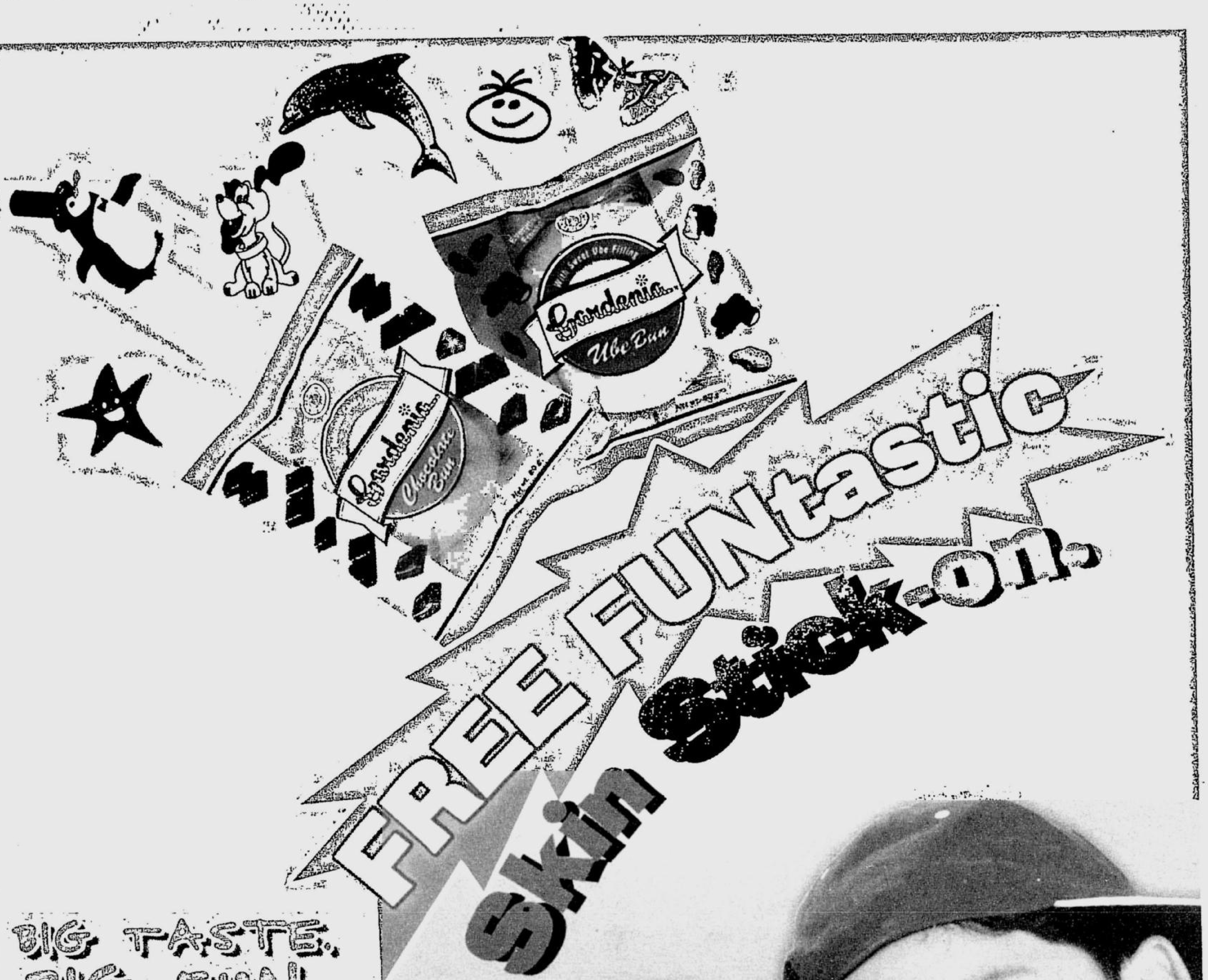
AARGH!
BIFF
"SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG SUNDAY PAPER."
DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT COMING BACK TOMORROW!
4-1
GILBERT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